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New Wave Wrestling #12

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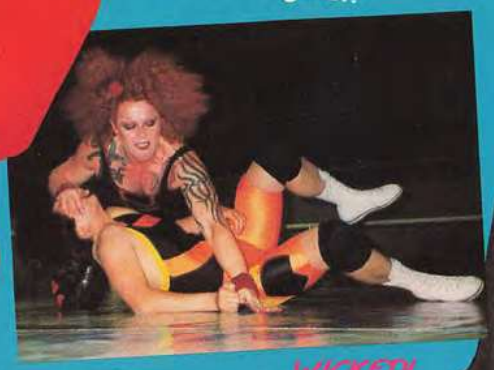
WILD! Mongolian Mauler's Top-Ten Toughest!



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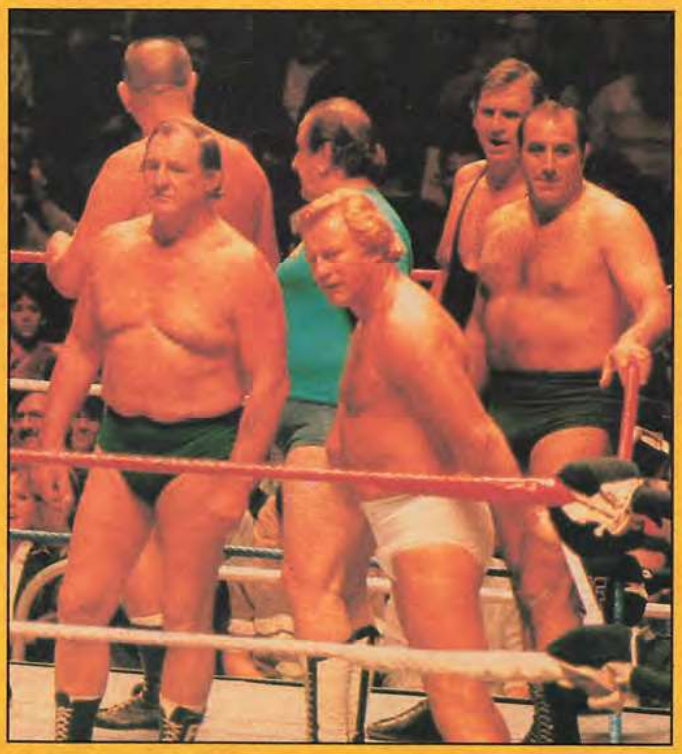

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Back-Cover Photos:
Ox Baker, Nailz, and Jimmy "the Superfly" Snuka *(Don Laible)*

New Wave Wrestling™

OFFICIAL PRO-WRESTLING RANKINGS

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
TOP-TEN HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Yokozuna
2. Lex Luger
3. Bret "Hitman" Hart
4. The Undertaker
5. Shawn Michaels
6. Randy "Macho Man" Savage
7. Jerry "The King" Lawler
8. Curt "Mr. Perfect" Hennig
9. Ludwig Borge
10. Doink

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
TOP-FIVE TAG TEAMS

1. The Steiner Brothers
2. The Headshrinkers
3. Men On A Mission
4. Bam Bam Bigelow & Adam Bomb
5. The Quebecers

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Steve "Dr. Death" Williams (U.S.)
2. Riki Chosyu (Japan)
3. "Big" Van Vader (U.S.)
4. Stan Hansen (U.S.)
5. Keiji "The Great Muta" Muto (Japan)
6. Bret "Hitman" Hart (Canada)
7. Tatsumi Fujinami (Japan)
8. "Nature Boy" Ric Flair (U.S.)
9. Genichiro Tenryu (Japan)
10. Ricky Steamboat (U.S.)

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Jushin "Thunder" Liger (Japan)
2. Tiger Mask (Japan)
3. 2 Cold Scorpio (U.S.)
4. Marty Jones (U.K.)
5. The Samurai (Japan)
6. The Ultimate Dragon (Japan)
7. Danny Collins (U.K.)
8. 1-2-3 Kid (U.S.)
9. Dean Malenko (U.S.)
10. Enrique Vera (Mexico)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
TOP-TEN HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. "Big" Van Vader
2. "Ravishing" Rick Rude
3. "Nature Boy" Ric Flair
4. Sid Vicious
5. "Lord" Steven Regal
6. "British Bulldog" Davey Boy Smith
7. Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff
8. Ricky "the Dragon" Steamboat
9. "The Natural" Dustin Rhodes
10. Cactus Jack

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
TOP-FIVE TAG TEAMS

1. The Nasty Boys
2. Arn Anderson & Paul Roma
3. Sting & "British Bulldog" Davey Boy Smith
4. Sid Vicious & "Big" Van Vader
5. The Hollywood Blonds

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN TAG TEAMS

1. Hell Raisers — Hawk & Power (U.S./Japan)
2. The Jurassic Powers (U.S.)
3. The Steiners — Rick & Scott (U.S.)
4. The Heavenly Bodies (U.S.)
5. The Rock & Roll Express (U.S.)
6. Keiji Muto & Tatsumi Fujinami (Japan)
7. Dave Taylor & Mile Zrno (Europe)
8. Los Villanos IV & V (Mexico)
9. Sid Vicious & "Big" Van Vader (U.S.)
10. The Bruise Brothers (U.S.)

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN WOMEN

1. Aja Kong (Japan)
2. Bull Nakano (Japan)
3. Zuleyma (Mexico)
4. Debbie Malenko (U.S.)
5. Bat Yoshinaga (Japan)
6. Monster Ripper (Puerto Rico)
7. Nicki Monroe (U.K.)
8. Misty Blue (U.S.)
9. "Yukon Erica" Dutkowski (Canada)
10. Bambi (U.S.)

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COMMENTARY
FROM THE CUTTING EDGE
by Publisher/Editor MICHAEL O'HARA

Hey, New Wavers—we're back! I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our incredibly loyal readers for the hundreds of letters of concern that have flooded into ***NWW HQ***. Everyone was quite concerned by our abrupt departure from the newsstand rasslin' wars, but the ***NWW Gang*** merely took a much-needed break from the action in order to get our second wind. As you can see by this issue, our 1994 Yearbook is dedicated to the wildest and weirdest wrestlers of all time, and the crew has pulled out all stops in an effort to provide news, views, and information presented in our uniquely ***New Wave*** fashion.

Before going on to this issue's editorial, I'd like to offer a solution to the problems many have experienced in finding our mesmerizing mat masterpiece at their local convenience store. If you will send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, we will inform you when our next issue goes on sale. You will be able to buy future issues directly from us on an issue-by-issue basis.

Now, with all the much-needed announcements out of the way—it's time to get on with my cataclysmic comments and criticisms, otherwise known as (ta-dah!)—Commentary From The Cutting Edge!

For those of you who go back to the days before wrestling was a multi-million-dollar corporate entity, you will no doubt fondly recall when wrestlers were booked for special appearances on the regional circuits. For example—Vince McMahon Senior would bring in athletes for a one-show-only booking at the famed Madison Square Garden. From month to month, the likes of Billy Robinson, Antonio Inoki, and Ric Flair would come in as a special attraction, and this was just another good reason why you had to get a ticket for the live-arena show.

When you look at all of the truly successful promoters of yesteryear— Sam Muchnick of St. Louis and Roy Shire of San Francisco, to name only two—they always made a great effort to book stellar attractions from other circuits. The results spoke for themselves—packed houses and satisfied customers.

You might say to yourself: "Okay, Mike, that was then, but this is now. How could this be accomplished today in the age of warring promoters?"

Well, we're seeing signs of it happening already! The WWF has been bringing in talent from the Smoky Mountain and USWA circuits. The WCW has brought in international talent in the past, and it is certainly something that they should expand upon in the future.

The problem that arises with the "big two" promotions, however, is their great fear of providing an adequate spotlight to the visiting performers. The Heavenly Bodies' recent commitments in the WWF, and the Great Muta's stint in WCW a few years back, are proof of this.

A solution would be month-long bookings for top international and regional stars. For example, bring the Heavenly Bodies in for a month, and book them accordingly. The publicity department of the WWF would need to provide adequate promotion. The Heavenly Ones could be billed in the local newspaper ads as "Only Time in (fill in the town)." It would certainly add some much-needed spice to the arena shows.

Special-guest appearances would provide interest, they would be cost efficient, and they would inject a sense of spontaneity into the dormant style of matchmaking that has become so pervasive in recent years.

In closing, ***New Wavers***, thanks again for your continued patronage. I know that your local magazine shops are chock-full of various rassling publications, but your discerning tastes bring you to ***New Wave Wrestling*** each time, especially if you are in search of honest information and facts. You have given us your trust, and we will try our very utmost to be deserving of your support; because, in the long run, that's what it's really all about.

Until next time, keep those positive waves, baby!

MICHAEL O'HARA

NEXT WAVE NEWSREEL

MAT NEWS OF THE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE!

by Michael O'Hara

OFF DUTY: Yokozuna relaxed in his civilian garb. photo: Jerry Wilson

• **WWF NEWS:** There's been plenty of talent trades going on in recent months between the WWF and **Jerry Jarrett's** USWA. Add **Jim Cornette's** Smoky Mountain Wrestling to this mix. We've seen **the Heavenly Bodies** at this past *SummerSlam* with more to follow! **Yokozuna & the Steiners** should be touring the Smoky Mountain circuit by the time you read this.

The USWA has become a testing ground for many important WWF battles... In Memphis, **Yokozuna** defeated **Lex Luger**. On the same card **Bret & Owen Hart** defeated **Jerry Lawler & Jeff Jarrett**.

The September 18, 1993 Florida Sun Dome card had **M.O.M., Randy Savage & Lex Luger** against **Yokozuna, the Headshrinkers & Bam Bam Bigelow** in what had to be considered one of the wildest tag brawls of the year.

For those interested, **Hulk Hogan** defeated **Yokozuna** via disqualification in all of their matches throughout the WWF's summer European tour. This tour completed **Hulk's** commitments with the WWF. He is slated to begin his own promotion in Tampa, Florida this month.

While on the topic of **Hogan**, after his May 3rd match at Japan's Fukuoka Dome against **the Great Muta**, he made some startling remarks in his comparing of the WWF title with the IWGP title. "I'm a five-time WWF champion. To me, this (WWF) belt is a toy, like a Christmas ornament. The WWF belt is like a Honda. The IWGP title is like a Rolls Royce. It's the real World championship belt. Winning this (WWF) belt was easy. The IWGP belt is very hard to win," stated the Real American. (Side Note-**Hulk** pinned **Muta** in 15:55 of their bout.)

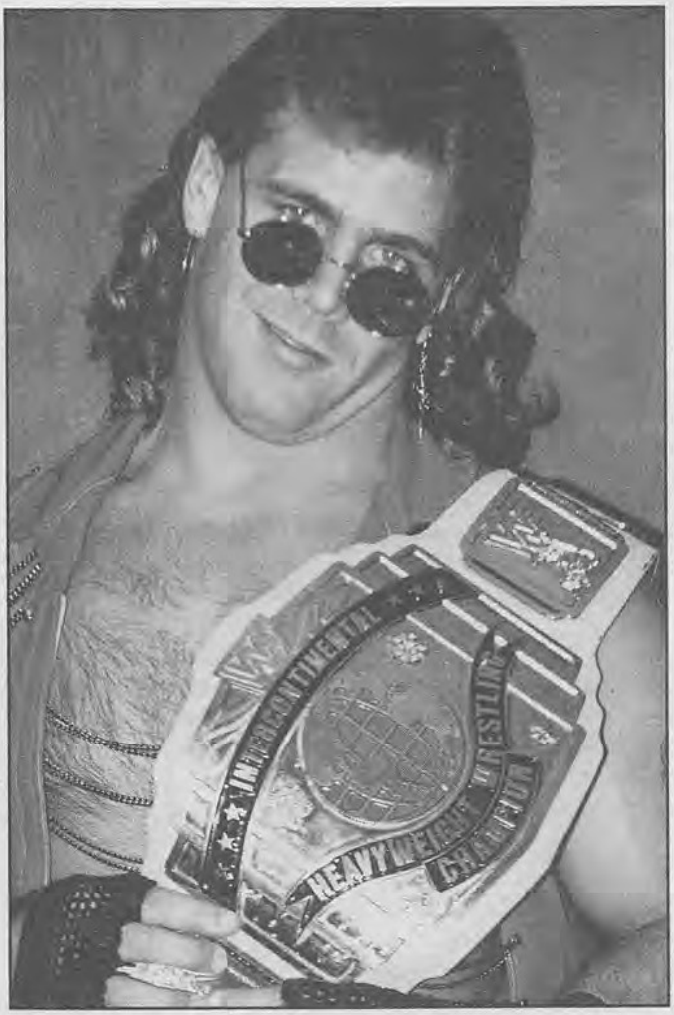
More **Hulkster** news—he's allegedly putting together a rock group called *The Wrestling Boot Trash Can Band* with **Jimmy Hart, Brutus Beefcake, Hillbilly Jim, "the Anvil" Jim Neidhart**, and **the Honky Tonk Man**.

The Undertaker *(Mark Callaway)* is still nursing an injured ankle that he received in an August 16th title match with **Yokozuna** in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Wrestlers who are expected to be out of the WWF or have already left include: **Ted DiBiase** (now in Japan), **Terry Taylor** (WCW-bound as the Fourth Horseman?), **Damian Demento, Bob Backlund, Kamala, Tito Santana** (who is already working independent shows), **Giant Gonzalez, Virgil** (USWA-bound?), **Doink #2** (a.k.a. *Steve Keirn,* who will be working the independents as *Skinner*), **Blake Beverly, Papa Shango** (USWA-bound), **Marty Jannetty** (Florida independents), and **Mr. Fuji...Jim "Hacksaw" Duggan** will be doing double duty with limited WWF matches as well as independent bouts.

Veteran TV announcer **"Mean" Gene Okerlund**, who literally became the voice of the WWF in the mid-1980s, jumped ship, and he will be projecting his carnival barker annunciations for the WCW!... **Luna Vachon** has been wrestling in the USWA as well as managing **the Vampire Warrior**. She is also expected to manage him upon his debut in the

The ever-egocentric Shawn Michaels: Through wins and losses, you just can't keep this bad man down! photo: Jerry Wilson



WWF this fall...**Crush** *(Bryan Adams)* is suffering from an injured ankle... **Brutus "the Barber" Beefcake** *(Ed Leslie)* recently opened a *Gold's Gym* in Tampa, FL.

Mike Curry, the son of **"Flying" Fred Curry** and grandson of **"Bull" Curry,** recently worked on the *WWF Superstars* TV tapings against **Ludwig Borge** *(Tony Halme)*... **Linda & Vince McMahon** were elected to the Board of Directors of the *1995 Special Olympics*...Plans are in the works for a two-hour WWF radio show hosted by **Jim Ross**...**Hulk Hogan**'s movie, *Mr. Nanny*, is expected to be released by the time you read this. (I don't know if it will be a theatrical or video release.)

Shawn Michaels' "Insurance Policy" named **Diesel** is none other than WCW's **Vinnie Vegas** *(Kevin Nash)*—no surprise here...The big-finish gimmick for **Bastion Booger** *(Mike Shaw)* is to blow his nose into a handkerchief and then wipe it into the face of his fallen foe. (Somehow, promoters reach new lows with each passing issue of ***NWW!***

M.O.M. *(Men on a Mission)* worked in the USWA as **the Harlem Knights** *(Nelson Frazier and Bobby Horn)*... **Sensational Sherri** has left the WWF. She is currently working independent shows on the Northeast, and she will be enrolling in a beauty school. The dynamic former Ladies champion will be spending more time with her teenage son, who lives most of the time with **Sherri's** parents

The Predator, who has been working the undercard on various WWF shows in Florida, is **Michael Bollea**, the real-life nephew of **Hulk Hogan**. **Mike** has been competing in Japan for the past two years.

Jerry "the King" Lawler destroyed **Tiny Tim's** ukulele during his *King's Court* segment on an episode of *RAW*...**Tiny Tim** was a musical oddity of the 1960s; he played tunes from the 1920s on his ukulele as he sang in a very shrill voice.

Texas Hangmen, TNT (from Puerto Rico), and **Van Hammer** are to be expected in soon...**Macho Midget** was played by **Tiger Jackson**!

• **WWF RESULTS:** *Lowell, MA*—**Tatanka** beat **Shawn Michaels**-DQ. **Rio, Lord of the Jungle** was given a tryout, but lost to **Brooklyn Brawler**. **Bret Hart** defeated **Ludwig Borge**-DQ. **Razor Ramon** pinned **Damian Demento**, **1-2-3 Kid** beat **Bastion Booger**. **Perfect & Randy Savage** defeated **Giant Gonzalez & Mr. Hughes**.

San Francisco, CA—**Bastion Booger** stopped **Owen Hart**. **Giant Gonzalez** beat **Randy Savage**-DQ. **Undertaker** pinned **Mr. Hughes**. **Yokozuna** beat **Bret Hart** (cage match). **Steiners** beat **Headshrinkers**. **1-2-3 Kid** pinned **Doink**. **Mr. Perfect** beat **Shawn Michaels**.

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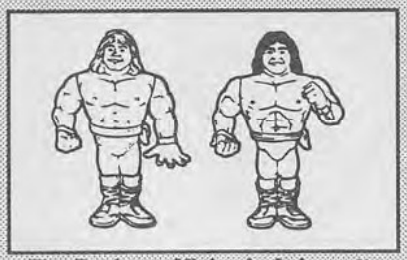

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BY POPULAR DEMAND: ☛ Here's a pix of Men On A Mission when they appeared in the USWA as the Harlem Knights! photo: Jeff Cohen

Long Island, NY (Nassau Coliseum)—**1-2-3 Kid** pinned **Bastion Booger**. **Mr. Perfect** beat **Bam Bam Bigelow**. **Tatanka** drew **Doink** (20:00). **M.O.M.** pinned **Well Dunn**. **Undertaker & Randy Savage** pinned **Giant Gonzalez & Adam Bomb**. **Shawn Michaels** pinned **Razor Ramon**. **Scott** and **Rick Steiner** pinned **Fatu** and **Samu: the Headshrinkers**.

• **WCW News: Cactus Jack** *(Michael Foley)* has returned after his injury and is feuding with **Yoshi Kwan** *(Chris Champion)* ...WCW is looking to book overseas tours of Singapore and Hong Kong with the help of longtime promoter **Jim Barnett**...**Hawk & Animal: The Road Warriors** (or if you prefer, **Legion of Doom**) will reunite under the WCW banner in early 1994. Meanwhile, **Hawk** has been tag teaming with **Dustin Rhodes**.

Easily, the best "mat blooper" of recent years was the *explosive* debut of **the Shock Master** on the August 18th *Clash of Champions*. For those who may have missed the hilarious fumble, **the Shocker** came barging through a prop wall only to trip during the entrance. His helmet (a $29.95 Star Wars' Storm Trooper Halloween mask covered with silver-sequined paint) went flying off to reveal **Typhoon** (Fred Ottman) of the WWF's **Natural Disasters**.

As unbelievable as it may sound, WCW threw all common sense to the wind and exposed their championship plans for the upcoming months during their July 6-9 TV tapings held at Disney World's MGM Studios in Orlando, FL. During the course of the tapings, **Ric Flair** came out wearing the NWA title (Remember, this was taped well before the *Beach Blast* ppv!) Later on, **Rick Rude** came out wearing the NWA gold. The tag straps were worn by **Paul Roma** and **Arn Anderson** as well as **The Nasty Boys**, managed by **Missy Hyatt**. The TV title was held by both **Ricky Steamboat** and **Steven Regal** *(managed by Sir William Dundee)*. This must rank as the dumbest decision in the annals of NWA/WCW history.

Ole Anderson's son, **Brian Rogowski** is training for his pro-debut... **Kendall Windham, Stan Lane,** and **Sam Houston** are expected in soon.

WCW Results: *Atlanta, GA*—**Ric Flair** pinned **Paul Orndorff**. **Bulldog & Sting** pinned **Van Vader & Sid Vicious** in a Thundercage. **Dustin Rhodes** beat **Rick Rude**–DQ. **Charlie Norris** pinned **Bobby Eaton**. **Nasty Boys** pinned **Cole Twins**. **Ricky Steamboat** drew **Steven Regal** (15:00). **The Equalizer** pinned **Brad Armstrong**.

Kingsport, TN—**Yoshi Kwan** pinned **Brad Armstrong**. **Mark Starr** upset **Dick Slater**. **Ricky Steamboat** drew **Steven Regal**. **Paul Roma & Arn Anderson** pinned **Tex Slazenger & Shanghai Pierce**. **Johnny B. Badd** pinned **Max Payne**. **Sting** pinned **Big Van Vader** (nontitle). **Ric Flair** beat **Sid Vicious**–DQ.

Miami, FL—**Erik Watts** beat **Chris Benoit**. **Frankie Lancaster** pinned **Cliff Anderson**. **Charlie Norris** pinned **Bobby Eaton**. **Nasty Boys** pinned **Marcus Bagwell & 2 Cold Scorpio**. **Bulldog** pinned **Orndorff**. **Equalizer & Rude** pinned **Rhodes & Sting**. **"The Nature Boy" Ric Flair** defeated **Sid Vicious**–DQ. (Manager **Col. Rob Parker** interfered—Flair had Sid in the figure-four.) ***NWW***

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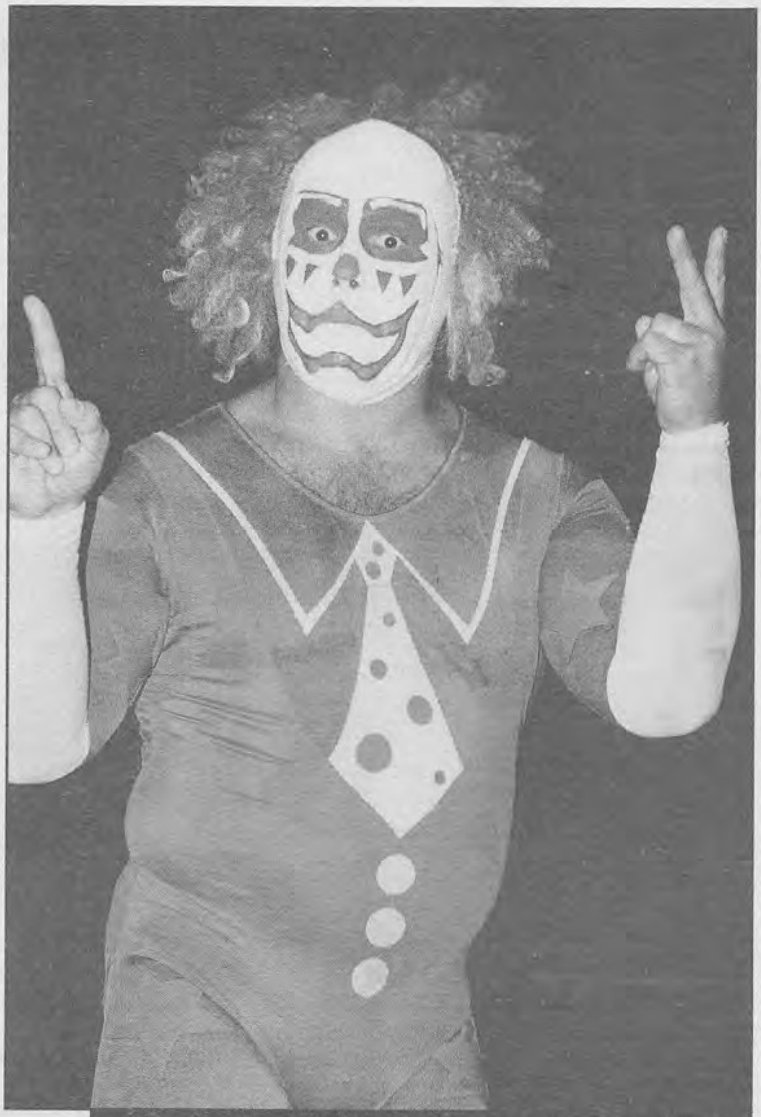
When this painted punster first arrived on the WWF scene, he was quickly dismissed by the critics as a flash in the pan. Now, after many months of intense combat, fans and foes alike must agree—no one is safe when the circus comes to town!

DOINK! Beware The Man Who Laughs Last!



Matdom's mirthmaker asks the question: One Doink or two? All true-blue *New Wavers* know the answer to that one by now! photo: Jerry Wilson

by Michael O'Hara

If anyone had ever said that the singularly most spectacular performer of 1993 would be a wrestling clown, I'd probably look for the nearest exit. Strange things happen in life, ***New Wavers***, and even stranger things happen in the world of pro-wrestling.

Although he took off to a rocky start, diehard fans grew to respect the abilities of the man behind the bright green hair and cherry-red nose. Why shouldn't they? After all, the man in the circus togs is no ordinary bozo, he is veteran mat mauler Matt Borne (Matthew Osborne), a second-generation ring dynamo, who has been working towards the center spotlight since his pro-wrestling debut in 1979.

Albeit, Matt probably thought his eventual recognition would come in a somewhat more dignified fashion, but you can't argue with success, and the character of Doink can certainly be considered a success! The thirtysomething sensation has achieved some greatness in the past, but nothing compares to his latest persona as a mirthful

messenger of mayhem.

Our earliest record of title success shows Matt (Doink) and his partner, Buzz Sawyer, capturing the Mid-Atlantic tag-team belts in 1980.

He returned to his native Oregon, and on April 4, 1981 in Portland, he defeated "Playboy" Buddy Rose for the Northwest title. It should be noted that Matt's sister, Tony Rae, is married to Buddy (Paul Perschman), so this battle really brought new meaning to the term "family feud." Also during the early 1980s, he captured Northwest tag-team honors on four different occasions—twice with Steve Regal and twice with Rip Oliver.

He traveled on to the Mid-South Wrestling Association, and with Ted DiBiase (known as The Rat Pack), they defeated the Junk Yard Dog & Mr. Olympia (Jerry Stubbs) for the MSWA tag straps on October 27, 1982 in Shreveport, Louisiana.

He then moved on to Texas. On September 10, 1986, he reunited with former Buzz Sawyer and captured the World Class American tag titles in a tournament held in Fort Worth, Texas. On November 10, 1987 in Midland, Texas, Borne defeated Ted Arcidi for the World Class Texas title. He upset Kerry von Erich for the USWA Texas crown on May 25, 1990 in Dallas, Texas.

PRE-DOINK: Matt Borne as himself in 1991. photo:John Mills

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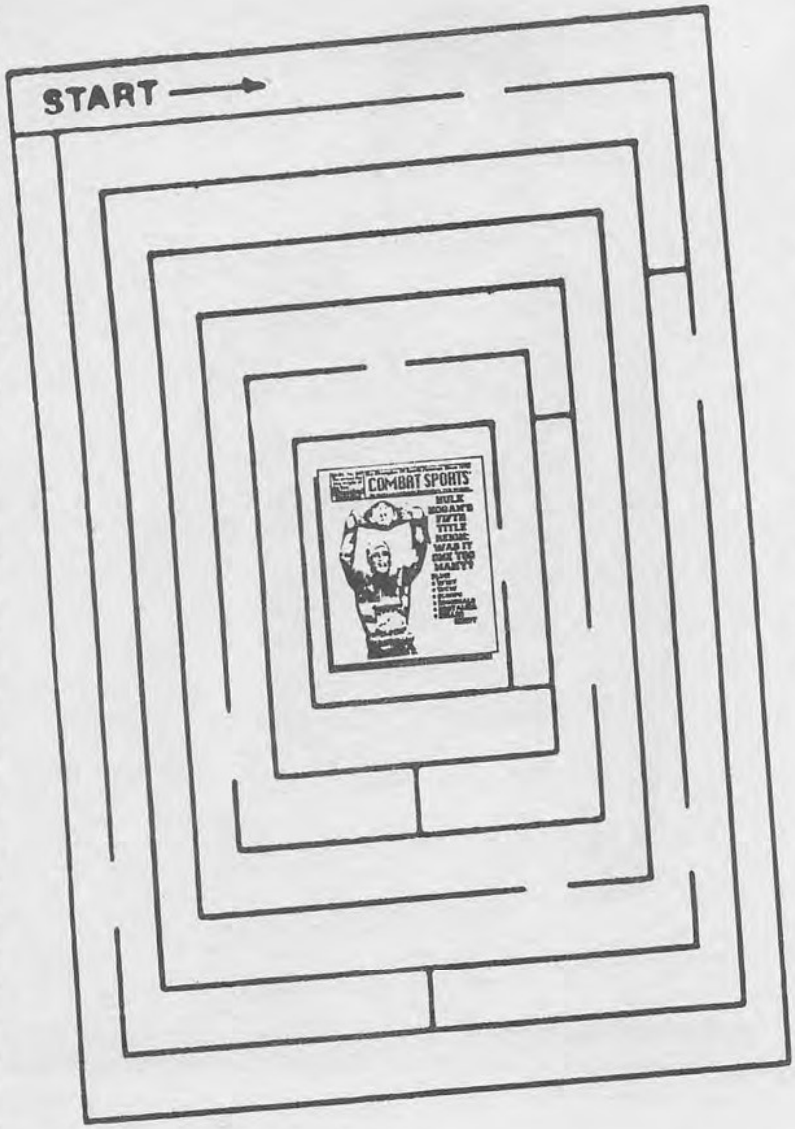
Matt had a brief stint as a World champion in 1991 for the ill-fated Texas Wrestling Federation. He then signed with WCW, and he made his debut in 1992 as "Big Josh," a lumberjack character. Quickly, he garnered the U.S. tag-team belts with Ron Simmons and, later, the Six-Man tag-team straps with Dustin Rhodes and "Z-Man."

Since hooking up with the WWF, he has chalked up impressive wins against Crush, Bob Backlund, and El Matador. From time to time, there have been additional Doinks (Steve "Skinner" Keirn and Steve "Brooklyn Brawler" Lombardi) at his side, but, in recent months, he has spent most of his time in solo action. Will this cantankerous clown make his way to the very top? Who knows, after all, you can never judge a clown by his facepaint! ***NWW***



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He successfully completed our **HIDDEN WORDS CONTEST #3!**

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We'll list the first 10 fans who *correctly* complete this contest in a future issue of ***New Wave Wrestling!***

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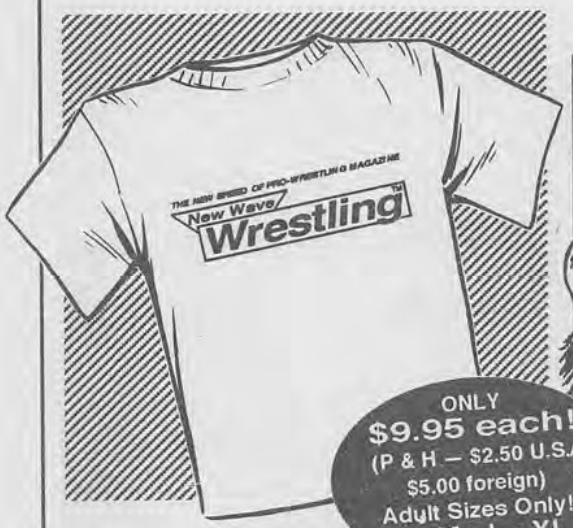

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The NOSTALGIA ZONE!

by Michael O'Hara

12/1/73 Philadelphia, PA: Stan "the Man" Stasiak pinned Pedro Morales for the World Wide Wrestling Federation heavyweight championship!

12/2/74 Toyahashi, Japan: Shohei "Giant" Baba pinned Jack Brisco for the NWA World title. This was Baba's first title reign. Seven days later, Brisco regained the gold.

12/3/83 Denver, CO: The High Flyers ("Jumping" Jim Brunzell & Greg Gagne) pinned Gerry "Crusher" Blackwell & Ken Patera for the American Wrestling Association tag-team titles at 15:28.

12/4/79 Osaka, Japan: Antonio Inoki successfully defended his National Wrestling Federation title against Pedro Morales.

12/5/93—Happy 34th Birthday to the former British Bulldogs tag-team member—Tom "The Dynamite Kid" Billington!

12/6/79 Tokyo, Japan: Bob Backlund pinned Antonio Inoki at 27:19 to regain the WWF title in a controversial rematch. Inoki's arch-rival, Tiger Jeet Singh, attacked the Japanese mat ace, hitting him in the groin. Backlund easily applied a small package to score the pinfall. Bob's loss and recapture of the WWF gold was never officially recognized by the Federation. For complete details on this unusual championship situation see *Weird Wrestling Tales* in ***New Wave Wrestling #10***.

Two great former NWA World champions–Shohei "Giant" Baba & Gene Kiniski. photo: Koichi Yoshizawa

12/8/80 Madison Square Garden, NYC: Pedro Morales pinned Ken Patera for the WWF Intercontinental championship.

12/9/80 Fukuoka, Japan: Dusty "The American Dream" Rhodes defeated Hulk Hogan via disqualification. According to ***New Wave Wrestling***'s records, this was the only time that these two major stars of the 1980s faced one another in one-on-one competition.

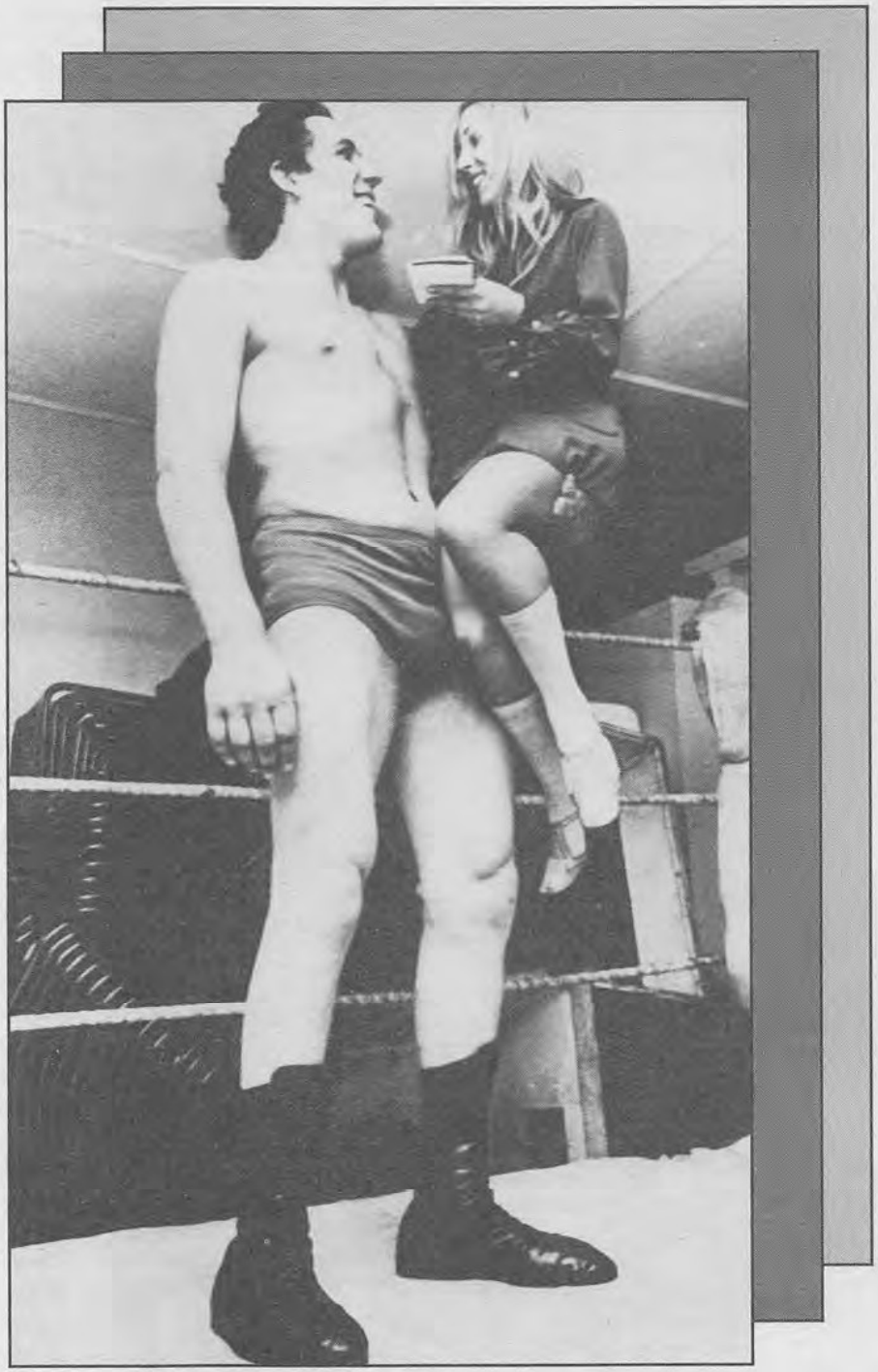
12/10/80 Osaka, Japan: Bob Backlund & Antonio Inoki defeated Hulk Hogan & Stan Hansen in the finals of the NWF's Madison Square Garden Tag-Team Tournament.

12/11/80 Tokyo, Japan: Giant Baba & Jumbo Tsuruta upset Terry & Dory Funk Junior for the PWF tag-team titles.

12/12/82 Tokyo, Japan: Terry & Dory Funk Junior defeated Stan "the Lariat" Hansen & Frank "Bruiser" Brody to win the World Tag Tournament '82.

12/13/88 Chicago, IL: Jerry "the

***New Wave Wrestling* is proud of the grappling game's glorious past. Join us as we nostalgically reminisce about the major mat upsets and titanic title changes that have taken place over the years during the month of DECEMBER!**



☛ *The late, great Andre the Giant in London (circa 1969). photo: Dave Cameron*

King" Lawler gained a TKO victory over Kerry von Erich to unify the AWA & WCCW World titles.

12/14/88 Tampa, FL: Jim Backlund pinned Tyree Pride for the FCW World junior-heavyweight title.

12/16/72 St. Louis, MO: Harley Race went to a double disqualification with Johnny Valentine. As a result of the outcome of this match, the Missouri State heavyweight title was proclaimed vacant by the promotion.

12/17/78 Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Dino Bravo pinned Gene Kiniski for the Canadian title.

12/17/79 Madison Square Garden, NYC: Hulk Hogan, managed by Freddie Blassie, made his Madison Square Garden debut by gaining a backbreaker submission victory over Ted DiBiase at 11:12.

12/18/72 Madison Square Garden, NYC: Mil Mascaras became the first masked man to ever appear in the famed arena. He defeated the Spoiler (Don Jardine) who was forced by the State Athletic Commission to wrestle without his mask. For years, masked wrestlers were not allowed to compete in the New York wrestling rings.

12/22/79 Madison Square Garden, NYC: Roddy Piper made his MSG debut with a pinfall victory over Frankie Williams.

12/23/83 Eugene, OR: Curt Hennig & Scott McGhee pinned the Dynamite Kid & the Assassin for the Northwest tag-team titles.

12/25/78 New Orleans, LA: Andre the Giant & Dusty Rhodes defeated Stan Hansen & Ernie "the Big Cat" Ladd in the finals of a tournament to crown new United States tag-team champions.

12/25/87 Knoxville, TN: Lord Humongous pinned "Nightmare" Danny Davis for the Southeastern heavyweight strap.

12/28/80 Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Angelo Mosca defeated the Iron Sheik for the Canadian title in a steel-cage match.

12/28/84 Madison Square Garden, NYC: Television newsman John Stossel was attacked by WWF wrestler Dr. D. David Shults. Stossel asked the proverbial stock question: "Is wrestling fake?" The Doctor replied with repeated slaps to the side of the reporter's head. The TV newsman was later awarded $450,000.00 in court.

12/29/86 East Rutherford, NJ: Stan Hansen upset Rick Martel with a Boston crab submission to capture the American Wrestling Association World title at 13:37.

12/30/78 St. Petersburg, FL: Terry Funk pinned Dick Slater for the Southern States championship. The special stipulation for this match was the winner would be decided by a one-count pinfall rather than a standard three-count.

12/31/84 Fort Worth, TX: Kerry, Kevin & Mike von Erich defeated Buddy Roberts, Chris Adams & Gino Hernandez for the World Class Championship Wrestling six-man tag-team titles. ***NWW***

RASSLE RAP

"SUPERFLY" JIMMY SNUKA

Jungle King of the Ring!

interview by Sandy DeLuca

It's certainly no secret that Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka loves his thousands of loyal fans. That feeling is unconditionally reciprocated each and every time he steps into the squared circle! photo: Dave Cameron

For close to 25 years, the unmistakable talents of Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka have been thrilling mat mavens from around the grappling globe. In this exclusive *Rassle Rap* interview, the high-flying Polynesian phenom provides an insightful look at his unique ring style and awe-inspiring career!

NW: What have you been up to since you left the World Wrestling Federation?
JS: I've been working for many different regional wrestling promotions, and that has kept me on the road most of the time. I'm very happy in this current situation. I have more time for leisure, and I no longer have the pressure of the road and the heavy bookings. I am my own boss, and that's the way that I've always liked it best.
NW: You're working for Walter "Killer" Kowalski's IWF promotion tonight. What is the difference between working for an independent group as opposed to working for a major-league organization like the WWF?
JS: I would like to say at the onset that Walter is a very good man as well as a very intelligent promoter. He puts on a beautiful show for the fans, and he treats the wrestlers with a great deal of respect. That's a fantastic combination. Believe me when I tell you that men like Walter Kowalski keep the independents strong and growing today.

I have nothing negative to say about the WWF. The only problem for me was the intense travel commitments; the bookings were very hectic. The WWF is a great wrestling organization, but there comes a

time when you need to heal your wounds and rest. You need a period to rebuild yourself by eating right and training properly.

I needed some time to myself. I needed time to be with nature—to connect back with our beautiful Mother Earth. Being part of the independent groups allows me more relaxation time. Sometimes I want to go fishing or surfing, and if I made a long-term commitment to a major league group, I would have to place my wants and desires out of my mind. There is only time for business in a situation like that. I can now wrestle when I want, and I can also fulfill my needs to get back to nature.

NW: Where were you born?

JS: I was born in the Fiji Islands, and I lived there until I was 11 years old. Then my family moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, so I really grew up in Hawaii.

The Pacific Islands are very beautiful, and I miss them very much. Whenever I get a chance, I return to the islands of my childhood.

NW: How did you get your nickname "Superfly?"

JS: Back in the Pacific Islands, we like to climb up to the highest points on the cliffs, then we dive off into the beautiful, clear, ocean.

When I first started in wrestling, I saw many athletes leap from the top rope to perform a flying body-press on their opponents, so I brought my competitive island spirit into the ring; I would leap higher and higher from the top rope until it seemed like to the fans that I was flying.

It was the competition to be the best—to fly higher than any other wrestler that created "the Superfly." I love competition. You could say that competition has been the key to my whole life. I always keep going until I reach the very peak at whatever I do.

Because I enjoyed diving off the cliffs for the tourists, I brought a greater level of excitement and entertainment into the wrestling ring. My whole wrestling character is built around a jungle or island environment. My natural skills helped me to create "the Superfly."

NW: I think that the fans will never forget your incredible match with WWF Intercontinental heavyweight champion "Magnificent" Don Muraco in a 15-foot-high steel cage. It was an unbelievable sight to see you leap up into the air and straight down onto the champ. It must have been a 25-foot drop, at least.

JS: Yes, everyone seems to remember that night at New York City's Madison Square Garden.

NW: Prior to entering the professional wrestling ring, didn't you also compete as bodybuilder?

JS: Well, I was a competitive bodybuilder back in the late 1960s and early 1970s. I competed mainly on the U.S. West Coast and the Pacific Islands.

NW: Were you successful as a bodybuilder?

JS: Yes, I have held several

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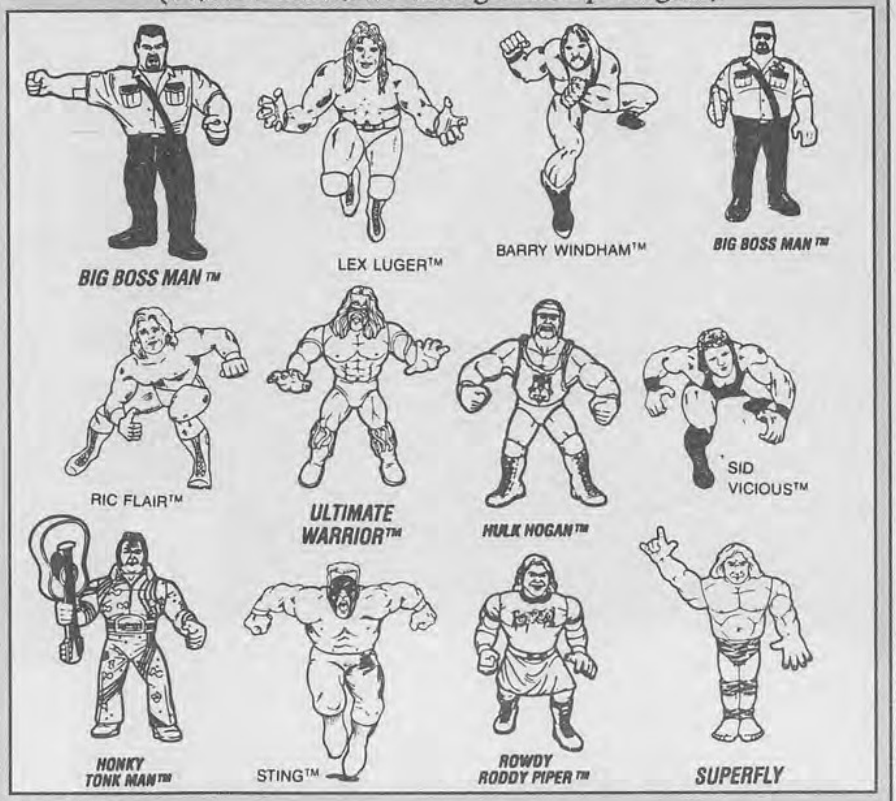

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Jimmy's natural instincts prevent him from falling into the trap set by Tony "Mr. U.S.A." Atlas. photo: Jon Simmes

championships, including Mr. Hawaii, Mr. Polynesian Islands, and others.

NW: What is your training regimen like?

JS: It has always been very important for me to be at my very best; therefore, I always like to stay in top shape, both mentally and physically. I train very hard, and because of all my hard work, I look and feel better in the ring.

If I don't work out, my day is not complete. After a tough training session, I know that I have done my homework for that particular day. This feeling of accomplishment carries over throughout my entire day.

NW: You literally leaped from bodybuilding into the squared circle, didn't you?

JS: Yes, I did, and I worked in various small groups until I eventually signed with the AWA.

NW: What time period are we talking about?

JS: I started to wrestle in 1970 or 1971, and the AWA followed in 1972.

NW: How did you find the wrestling competition during the initial period of your career?

JS: It was exciting to get into the ring then; there were so many different styles of wrestling, and I really learned a great deal. While in the AWA, I teamed up with Don "the Rock" Muraco, who was also a newcomer to wrestling, and we did quite well as a tag team. From there, I moved on to the Pacific Northwest.

NW: It was in the Pacific Northwest that you really became a force to be reckoned with, weren't you?

JS: I was very successful there. From my debut in the area in 1973, until the end of my tour, which, I believe, was in 1978, I was a top attraction for the promotion.

NW: You held a great number of championships during that period as well, didn't you?

JS: Yes, I held the Pacific Northwest heavyweight championship and the Pacific Northwest tag-team titles on six separate occasions.

NW: What was that time period like for you?

JS: It was a rough, tough circuit, and I had my hands full with the likes of "Ripper" Collins, "Apache Bull" Ramos, and Jesse "the Body" Ventura.

NW: Wasn't this at the very beginning of Ventura's career?

JS: Yes, I believe he made his professional wrestling debut on this circuit. He won the Pacific Northwest title after a few months in the ring. I eventually defeated him for the belt, my sixth and last time, before moving on.

NW: What about your tag-team success during that time?

JS: I was teaming up with Dutch Savage, who is really a legend in the Oregon and Washington state area. He was a great partner, and we had some incredible matches against "Apache Bull" Ramos and Ripper Collins.

NW: What do you recall of your WWF debut back in the early 1980s?

JS: It was very exciting. I was being managed by "Captain" Lou Albano at the time, so I quickly moved to the top of the list for matches with Bob Backlund, who was the champion.

NW: That was a classic series of title matches. Your styles complemented one another quite nicely. What do you remember about those matches?

JS: Backlund was a great champion. He was always prepared, and he was very dedicated to the sport. It was a pleasure to wrestle him.

NW: Eventually, you broke with Albano, and the original "Nature Boy," the late, great Buddy Rogers stepped in to handle your affairs. How did this happen?

JS: Well, I was unhappy with the direction I had to go with Albano. I didn't want to be a rulebreaker, and I didn't need to be a rulebreaker. I had personally known Mr. Buddy Rogers from my tour of the mid-Atlantic area. He was always there to encourage me and to provide

good advice.

NW: How did it feel to tag team with Buddy Rogers against Albano and Muraco?

JS: What can I say? When you have an opportunity to step into the ring with a true legend as your partner, you can't do any better than that. It was an honor for me. Buddy was a fantastic wrestler and a very beautiful person. Believe me when I tell you this, he's with the angels right now.

NW: After your feud with Muraco, you became involved in a gruesome war with "Rowdy" Roddy Piper. Tell us about that.

JS: Piper was pretty new to the WWF at that time. He was out of control, and he took everything to the limit.

NW: Which included smashing a solid coconut over your head during a Piper's Pit segment!

JS: He paid for that, but he's seen the light since then.

NW: Do you feel that professional wrestling has changed since your rookie days?

JS: Yes, things have changed a great deal from a business standpoint, but one thing has not, and that is the fans still want to see the same high level of excitement the older fans of ten or twenty years ago enjoyed. This will never change.

NW: How do you feel about the fans?

JS: I love these beautiful people so much. I do the best that I can possibly do for them. That's why I train so hard and I fly so high in the ring. Without the fans in the stands, there is no professional wrestling.

My job is to make them happy. I go into the ring and wrestle with all my heart and soul because I want everyone to have a great time. I appreciate the support of the fans, and I will always give them my best.

NW: What have been some of the other championships that you have held, Jimmy?

JS: Well, I held the NWA World tag-team championship with Paul Orndorff, and, back in the early 1980s, I defeated Ric Flair for the United States title. I also teamed with Terry Gordy to win the tag-team belts from Ted DiBiase and Steve Olsonowski in Atlanta, Georgia in 1981. Harley Race and I held the All-Japan International tag-team belts in 1982. Then I teamed with J.T. Southern, and we won the International tag-team belts in Memphis, TN in 1987.

The Mountie's head is just another ripe coconut ready to be crushed under the pressure of Snuka's powerful headlock! photo: Sandy DeLuca

NW: Do you have any future plans for championship title reigns?

JS: I have been winning many championships on the independent circuit. In 1992 I beat Demolition Ax for the Universal Wrestling Superstars heavyweight title in Queens, New York. In Massachusetts, I defeated the Mighty Hercules for the IWF Canadian-American title. I have been a two-time heavyweight champion for Eastern Championship Wrestling, which is based out of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I've also captured the ECW TV title. I have more titles now than I ever did before.

NW: Is there anything else that you'd like to add in closing?

JS: I would just like to say that I love this sport. It's in my blood, and it's always going to be there.

I also want to thank our Heavenly Father; all the good things in our beautiful world come from Him, and we must never forget to give thanks for all our gifts.

To all the fans—I can never thank you enough for all of your cheering. I hope that you will continue to love and support me, as I will always continue to love and support you.

NW: Thank you, Jimmy. ***NWW***

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A Conversation With:

OX BAKER

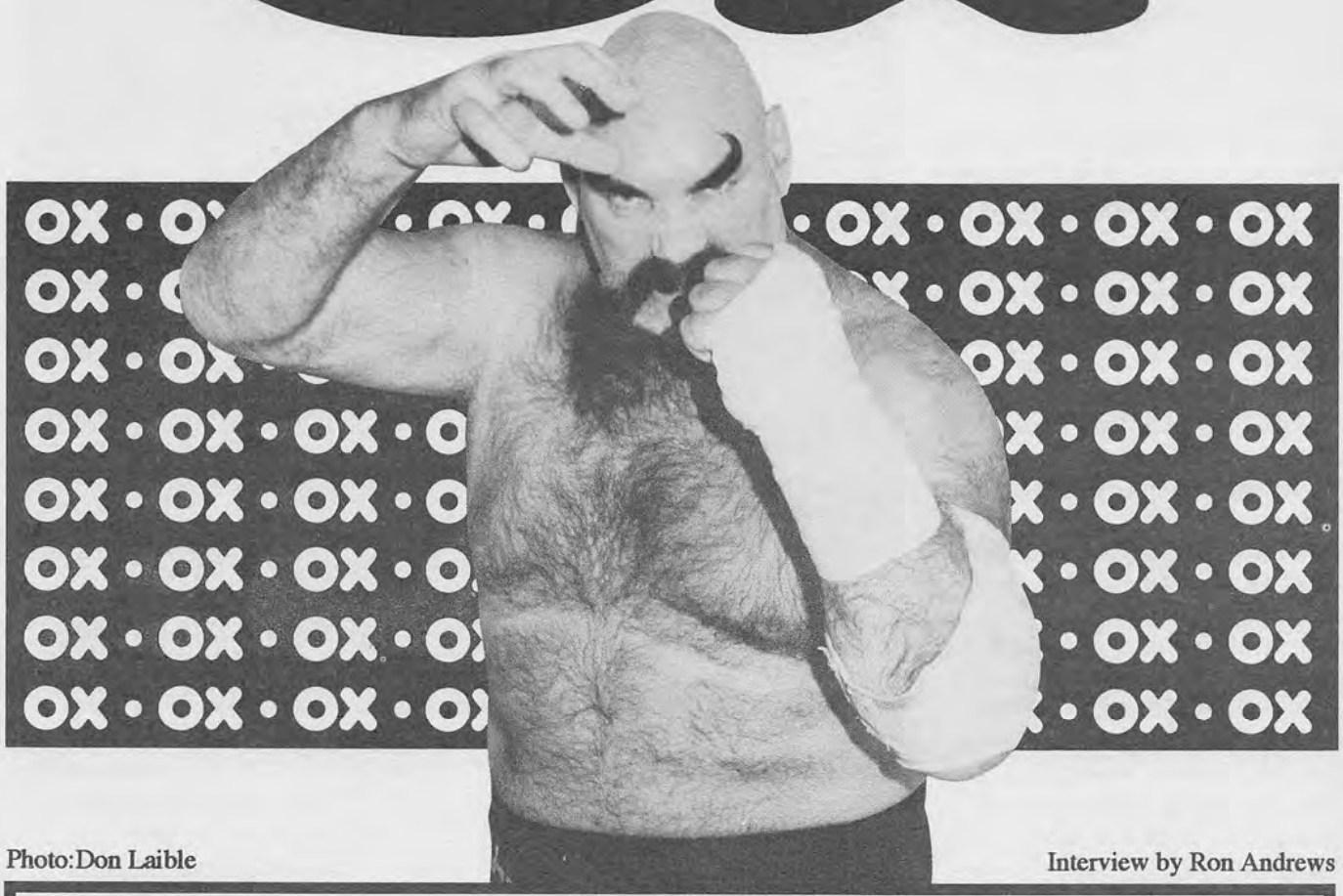


Photo:Don Laible

Interview by Ron Andrews

NW: What better place to begin this interview than at the beginning. Why and how did you get into professional wrestling, Ox?

OB: Well, I guess what it really came down to was money, and how to make lots of it. I was working all sorts of odd jobs—just breaking my back to make a living. I remember people would always say to me that I shouldn't be wasting my time in dead- end jobs, that I should take my six-foot-four, 350-pound body into the squared circle as a professional rassler.

To make a long story short, I went to a rassling show in Kansas City, and when I looked at the cream puffs in the ring, the dollar signs just lit up in my eyes; I've been fighting my whole life, and here was a golden opportunity to make big money at something I was good at. I could go into the ring and take out all my frustration and hostility on some unsuspecting rassler.

Promoter Bob Geigel took me under his wing. He knew that with the right training I would become an unstoppable force in the business. I also received instruction from the likes of "Killer" Buddy Austin and former NWA World champion, the late, great Pat O'Connor.

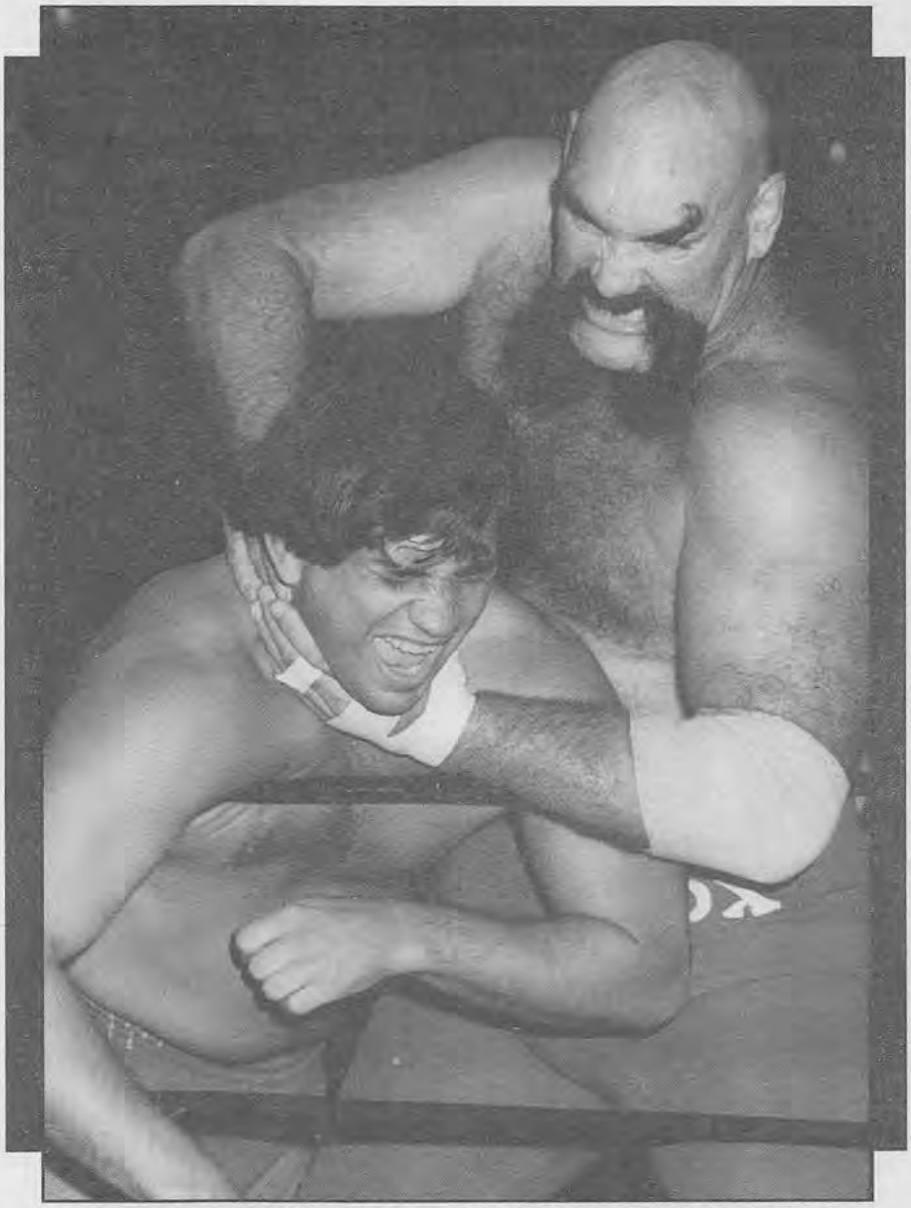
NW: Was this a legitimate training school situation, or were you just thrown to the lions?.

OB: No, it wasn't like a wrestling school at all. I was hanging around the promotion for quite some time before they would even let me into the ring for my first match. When I wasn't getting beaten up in training,

I was putting up or taking down the wrestling rings, or I was loading and unloading the promoter's truck.
NW: According to our records here at ***New Wave Wrestling HQ***, you had your first match in Des Moines, Iowa back in 1967. Is that correct?
OB: That sounds about right, although it might have been in Kansas City. I don't remember exactly. I am the most famous athlete to ever come out of Waterloo, Iowa, so Des Moines may have been the place.
NW: Do you have any memories of your first wrestling match?
OB: I've destroyed so many people over the course of my illustrious career, who can keep track! I just kept moving on to the next victory...and on to the next big pay day.
NW: And in the process of making the big money, you've also held a number of important championships. What have been some of your proudest accomplishments?
OB: I defeated "Cowboy" Bob Ellis for the WWA World title in Indiana. I destroyed Carlos Colon for the Puerto Rican version of the World title. I've held the World tag-team titles with guys like "the Canadian Freight Train" Joe LeDuc and "Enforcer" Luciano. I held the IWA North American belt, the ICW Brass Knuckles trophy, the United States belt, the Ausi-Asian International belt—and I could go on and on. There have been many proud moments in my career.
NW: You have faced all the big-name stars from around the world. Who have been some of your toughest opponents?
OB: In Indianapolis, Dick the Bruiser was a rough, tough rassler. If I could have brought him around to my way of thinking, he would have made a great tag-team partner.

In Detroit, I whipped the Sheik for the United States championship. The fans cheered my great victories because they hated the Sheik even more than they did me!

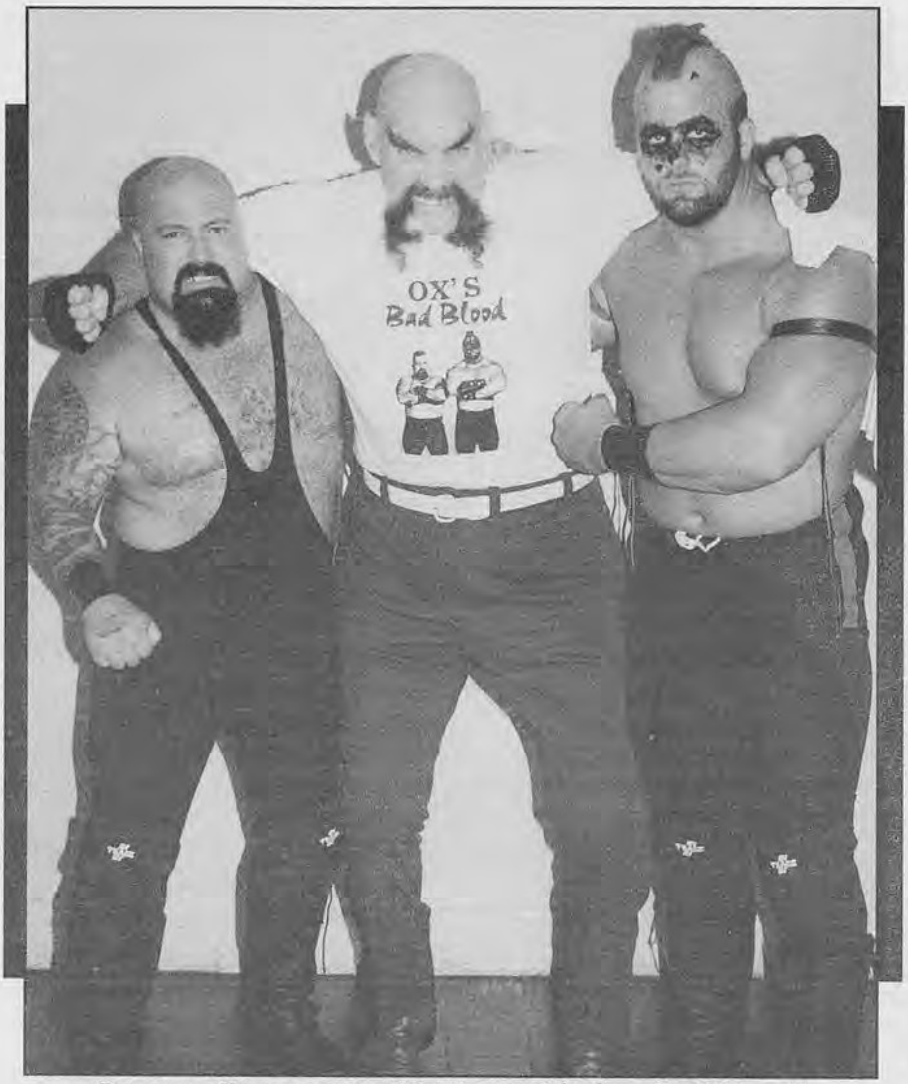
In Calgary, Canada, I mopped the floor with the Mongolian Stomper in a number of bloody brawls. Old ladies would pass out, babies would cry, and grown men would scream from the sheer excitement of our matches.



CLASSIC OH: The Big, Mean, and Ugly Master of the Heart Punch worked over a hapless Jerry Brisco during this 1977 Florida donnybrook! The Sunshine State was the site of some of Baker's most memorable battles. photo: Pete Lederberg

In Florida, I took everything that Dusty Rhodes had to offer, and I asked for more. We filled arenas throughout the state—Miami Beach, Tampa, and Orlando. I'm talking about sellout crowds EVERY WEEK— not once every month or six weeks!

You just ask the fans in the Pensacola, Florida area what I did to Hulk Hogan in 1978. I gave him free demonstrations of the heart punch. Night after night, he fell like a ton of bricks. That's why I was never able to make it into the WWF. I have been trying for over ten years, but they want to protect their fragile champions from a real rassler.
NW: While on the topic of the heart punch, how did you develop it?
OB: I developed the heart punch as a result of hundreds of bare-knuckle brawls that I was involved in before becoming a rassler. I'm not a body-builder or some cartoon character. I'm a guy who enjoys beating people up for a living. I've made a reputation for myself by taking



Ox proudly posed with his protégés - Bad Blood!
photo: Bob Murphy

away the reputations of others.

I have a left hand on me that can put a hole in a bank vault. Just imagine what I can do to all of these cartoon characters running around.

NW: Who have been some of your most famous heart-punch victims?

OB: Every rassler has felt the sting of Ox Baker's heart punch at some point in their career. Guys like Harley Race, Rip Rogers, Ronnie Garvin, Dick "the Bulldog" Brower, Abdullah the Butcher, Jerry "the King" Lawler, "Polish Power" Ivan Putski, Austin Idol, "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka, Verne Gagne, "the Big Cat" Ernie Ladd, Thunderbolt Patterson, Mil Mascaras, "the Iron Claw" Fritz von Erich, Jack Brisco, and that's just the tip of the iceberg!

NW: How would you rate the other claimants to the title of heart-punch specialist?

OB: There have been many wrestlers like "Wild" Bull Curry, Stan "the Man" Stasiak, and "the Undertaker" Mark Callis, who have used the heart punch. Remember one thing, though—I am the biggest and the strongest man to ever use this move, so you know my heart punch has to be the most effective.

NW: Can you explain the effect the heart punch has on your opponents?

OB: Well, I'm not a doctor, but when I make direct contact on the left side of my opponent's chest, the rassler can't breathe, and he blacks out.

NW: What have been your most infamous matches involving the heart punch? Didn't it prove fatal on two separate occasions?

OB: I delivered a heart punch to Alberto Torres, and he never recovered from it. They took him out of the arena on a stretcher and he passed away in the hospital.

A few years later, I hit Ray Gunkel with a heart punch, and he dropped dead right in the center of the ring.

After that, I had a reputation for being reckless, and the promoters were afraid to book me in the top matches. They were afraid I'd kill their top moneymakers.

NW: How did you react to this?

OB: I didn't spend too much time worrying about it. For every one promoter who was afraid to book me, there were ten other promoters who were knocking down my door. I have always been a top star in Australia, New Zealand, the Orient, and the Caribbean. Ox Baker has always been in demand—even in Hollywood.

NW: What movies have you appeared in?

OB: I appeared in movies like *Escape From New York, The Big Brawl,* and *Blood Circus*. I've made a few television commercials, and I've also done a bunch of ads for newspapers and magazines. I'm still getting offers, but I pick and choose when and where I want to work. Ox Baker is the greatest actor alive today! He is also the meanest wrestler alive today!

NW: You've spent a great deal of time as a wrestling trainer in recent years. Who have been some of your star pupils?

OB: I trained and managed a rassler by the name of the Russian Brute. He's competed all over the world. A few months ago, he beat Jerry Lawler on the Memphis, Tennessee circuit.

I've trained a couple of tag teams, too. I brought the Texas Hangmen into the AWA a few years ago, and I toured the independent circuit with my boys known as Bad Blood.

I took the Nightstalker and made a star out of him. He is six-foot-eight, 310 pounds, and was an all-American tackle for Warnersburg College. I gave him the killer instinct. He's worked for WCW, Smoky Mountain, and, by the time

your readers get a hold of this mag, he'll probably be working full-time in the WWF.

NW: Are there any new stars on the horizon that we should know about?

OB: I've got a rassler under wraps right now who is going to rip the roof off every arena that he works in. He's called the Colossal One, and he's the biggest, meanest, nastiest rassler that I could find. Mark my words, he's going to be the top ring villain of the 1990s!

NW: So then the Ox Baker training academy is going full swing ahead!

OB: No, this isn't a rassling school. I pick and choose who I want to train. They have to have the potential to make it in the rassling business; otherwise, it's just a pure waste of my time.

Just look at all of these rassling schools across the country. They're charging all sorts of outrageous fees, and they'll take anybody's money. They don't care if you're four-foot-two and weigh 100 lbs., just give them the money. That's all they care about.

There must be more than a hundred rassling training centers in operation today. Where are their new stars? There are none. It's just a big ripoff to separate a fool from his money.

NW: What would you like to see happen in the wrestling business over the next few years?

OB: I would like to see rassling go back to the days when you had big, mean, nasty guys go out there and do whatever they had to do to win a match. Everyone is too busy doing somersaults and cartwheels. That's not rassling. That's a circus act!

NW: Thank you, Ox. Many thanks for allowing me to interview you, and also for your many years of providing the best action in pro-wrestling. ***NWW***

Ox paid special attention to the Russian Brute's application of his patented heart punch. photo: Bob Murphy

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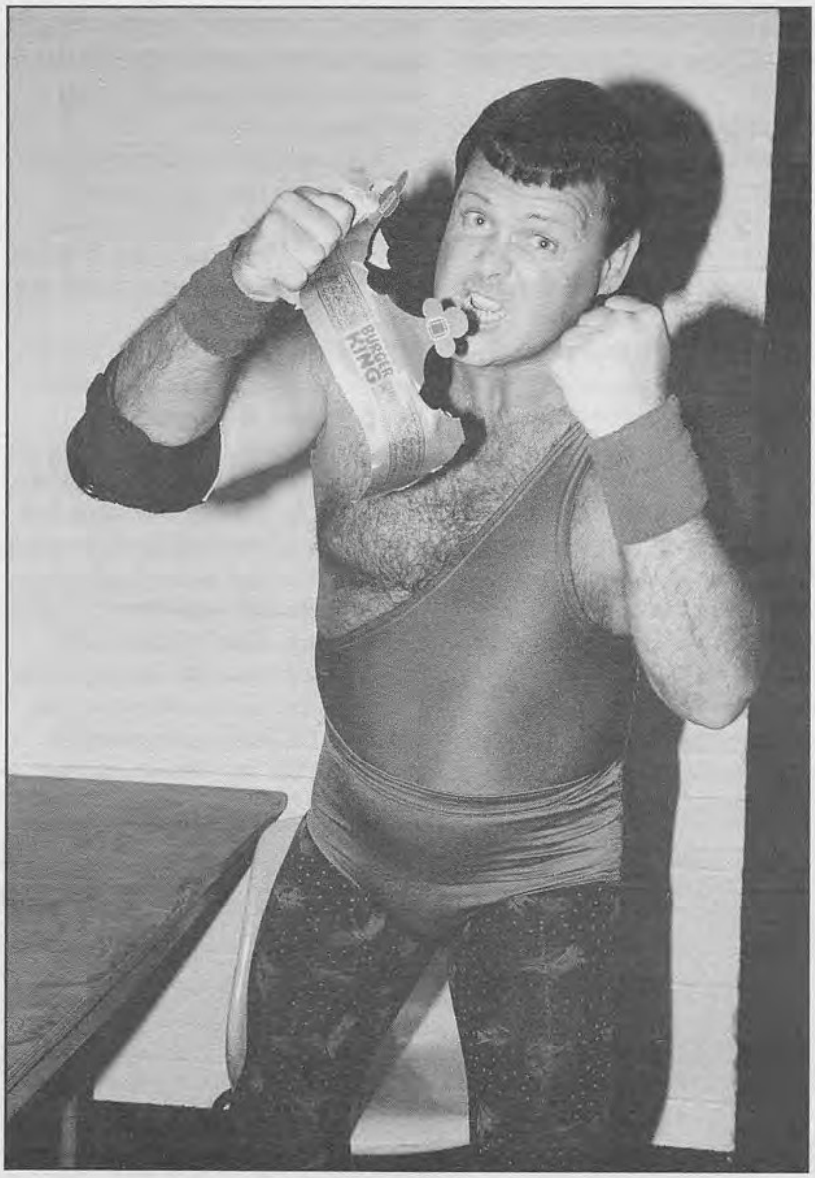
Weird WRESTLING Tales

The BIZARRO World of Jerry "The King" Lawler

by Michael O'Hara
photos by Jeff Cohen



Friends, foes, and fans can all agree on one thing: When it comes to controversial Jerry "the King" Lawler, they never know what he's going to do next!

Jerry "the King" Lawler is in a class all by himself. He's transformed himself from hero to villain within the confines of the Memphis, Tennessee rings so many times that fans sometimes cautiously wait a few minutes into his match before they decide whether to cheer him or jeer him. He has battled and, later, tag teamed with some of his most bitter enemies. He has denounced promoters and promotions with a preacher's zeal, only to sign up as one of their stellar attraction a few months later. And if that's not enough, Lawler has taken his split personality one step further; he now finds himself facing the same array of opposition. In one town, fans support his efforts, while in others they denounce him. Unusual? Certainly. Bizarre? Without question. Does it work for Jerry? You better believe it!

It is almost impossible to pick up the Jerry Lawler story without going right back to the very beginning of his illustrious and unorthodox ring career. For this "future king" of the ring, the summer of 1970 will always be remembered as a starting point on a wild and reckless journey to the top of the grappling game. One hot afternoon in West Memphis, the young, inexperienced Lawler quietly crept into the office of wrestling promoter Aubrey Griffith.

One thing you had to say about the Memphis State University freshman, he had guts. The promoter was amazed at Jerry's confidence, and he took inventory of the youngster's assets. The collegiate freshman had no great physique to speak of, and he was certainly not a towering giant. So much for the assets!

As Griffith was busy reintroducing Lawler to the front door, this quick-witted future star offered the wrestling promoter something that no self-respecting carnival barker could refuse—free advertising on a local radio station.

Free publicity! The two words that bring a tear to the eye of any promoter from sea to shining sea. Griffith took another look at the youth, and, miraculously, Jerry's physique seemed to fill out before the promoter's eyes. Lo and behold, Jerry seemed to be just the right height! Without hesitation, Lawler was hired on the spot, and he was immediately booked for next Saturday night's card held at The Avon Theatre in West Memphis.

Most mat newcomers would be terrified; they'd spend the entire week running through a crash course in the finer points of the mat game. Jerry had little time to be either terrified or trained. Besides being a college student, he was the seven-to-midnight disc jockey on radio station KWAM. At every possible opportunity throughout the week, the rookie exercised his vocal chords by plugging the upcoming independent show.

The night for Lawler's debut arrived, but it was, by no means, an indication of what was to come in the faroff future. By the rookie's own admission, he doesn't remember much about his debut; however, he does remember that he was involved in a tag-team match with partner Jerry Vickers against a forgettable duo known as the masked Exterminators.

"I got knocked out...actually, I think I knocked myself out," laughed Lawler.

After taking a shellacking for several minutes, Jerry exploded with a last-ditch effort to save his hide. He came charging at his foe with a body tackle. The rookie, however, didn't count on the fact that his masked rival would move out of the way. The youngster landed head first on the concrete floor outside of the ring. All Lawler remembers after the tackle is waking up in the dressing room. The other wrestlers in the locker room told him that he had been unconscious for approximately seven minutes. He was paid a whopping six dollars for his first lesson in ring humiliation.

Despite his dismal debut, Jerry had loved

Lawler turned Shawn Michaels' submission hold into a near-fatal three count!

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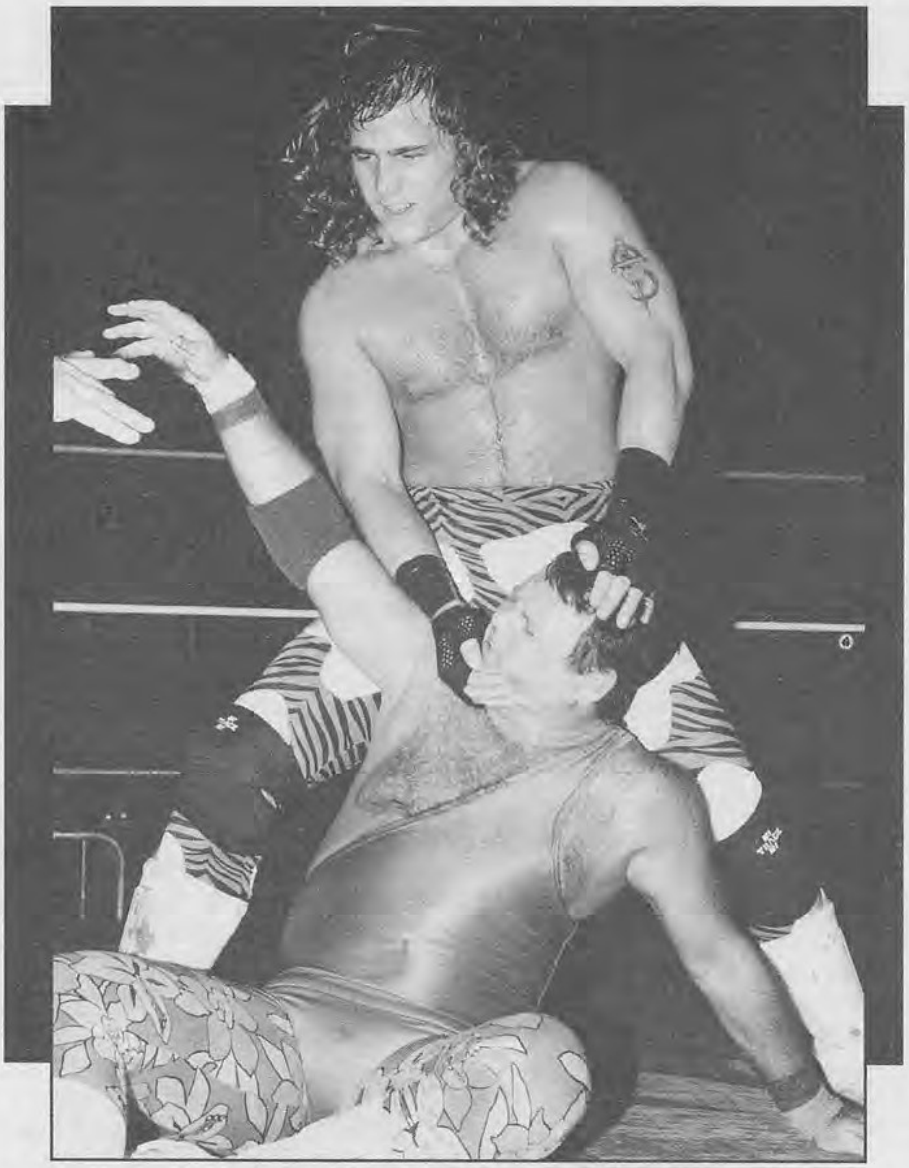

They continue to challenge the Grand Master of mayhem. They're younger, faster, and stronger, but they still fall at the hands of "the King!"

every minute of the mat experience...at least the time he remained conscious! He was back the following week for more punishment.

The wrestling bug had bitten, and the rassling rookie found himself totally obsessed with the grunt 'n' groan business. Each night he plugged the upcoming shows on his radio program. Wrestling was all that mattered to him. He made a special promotional tape, complete with a cheering crowd and the sounds of a ringside bell. Some nights the promo ran as many as fifteen times!

The wrestling promos may have done very little for the attendance figures at Aubrey Griffith's shows, but it did catch the attention of big-time promoter Nick Gulas and local wrestling star Jackie Fargo. Needless to say, they were less-than-pleased about all the attention this DJ was giving to a small-time, rival operation.

Lawler, who is also an accomplished illustrator and painter, had done some design work for one of Fargo's local businesses. Although Jackie was a bona fide hero to Lawler, he never mentioned his aspirations including a ring career. Fargo was aware of Jerry's obvious artistic skills, but had no idea about his grappling ambitions.

Fargo was upset that the minor-league group was getting so much publicity. So much, in fact, that it appeared to be a real competitor to the larger cards promoted in Memphis by Gulas. Jackie approached the wrestling hopeful with a deal.

"Jackie said if I stopped plugging those cards in West Memphis, he'd get me a match on one of Nick Gulas' cards," stated Lawler.

For those not familiar with Nick Gulas, he was the big-shot promoter in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Arkansas. Just about anyone who was anyone worked that circuit in the 1960s and 1970s.

The plugs immediately stopped, and, with Fargo's help, Jerry made it to the big time...Jonesboro, Arkansas! (Well, at least it was a step in the right direction.) In the fall of 1970, he made his Gulas Promotion debut by getting soundly thrashed by George Strickland. The following week, dastardly Tojo Yamamoto took his turn dishing out a brutal wrestling lesson.

Yamamoto was always put up against the rookies in order weed out those who just couldn't cut it. Lawler had survived his match; he would not be shaken from his dream. Needless to say, Jackie Fargo was impressed with the young man's courage. "The Fabulous One" personally took the youngster under his wing. Things began to slowly happen from there. (The word SLOWLY is stressed.)

"Counting the five or six matches I had in West Memphis, I think I wrestled 81 times before I won a match. I know it almost took a year because I was wrestling a little more than once a week," recalled the King.

Promoter Nick Gulas advised Jerry to go to Montgomery, Alabama to get a better grip on the wrestling business. He told Lawler that he would never make it as an inexperienced babyface (good guy) who just worked preliminary bouts around the Memphis area. The veteran impresario told the youngster to look at wrestling as if it were baseball. Montgomery was the minor leagues; it was where he could polish his skills in preparation for getting into the majors.

The move paid off—Jerry Lawler quickly developed into a full-fledged main eventer in the Alabama area.

Gulas got wind of the situation, and

he called the rising star back to Memphis. Lawler returned to his home-stomping grounds with partner Jim White and manager Sam Bass; both men had befriended the green gladiator during his time in the minors.

Bass was a keen negotiator, and he quickly signed his men to a title match with Jackie Fargo and Jerry Jarrett, the regional champions. On the night of the event, Jarrett was unable to reach the arena, which forced Fargo to go at it alone in a two-on-one situation. With the help of his manager Sam Bass at ringside, it quickly deteriorated into a three-on-one mugging. The irate SRO crowd went berserk when the ring announcer proclaimed Lawler and White as the new champions. Jerry had finally tasted success, and he vowed never to return to the preliminaries again.

From that point on, the regional ruffian remained in the eye of the hurricane on the Memphis circuit. He then eventually teamed and feuded with every Southern headliner over the next twenty years. His list of partners/rivals during this time included: Bill Dundee, DutchMantell, Nick Bockwinkel, Jimmy Valiant, Tommy Rich, Austin Idol, Terry Funk, and Eddie Gilbert, to name only a few.

In 1983 "the King" made national headlines for his ongoing feud with the late comedian Andy Kaufman. After accepting a challenge by the TV star, Lawler applied a piledriver on the 180-pound performer, causing a severe neck injury.

After the incident occurred, both men appeared on the *David Letterman* show, where a full-scale donnybrook broke out after Lawler slapped Kaufman out of his chair. Andy then returned the favor by throwing hot coffee into the pro-wrestler's face.

The feud continued as Kaufman signed for a series of handicap matches in which the comic and a partner of his choice teamed up against the popular hometown hero. Although big guns Ken Patera, the Assassin, and Man Mountain Link were brought into the storyline, "The King" emerged triumphant. Ironically, he lost one handicap bout to the unlikely duo of Kaufman and wrestling manager Jimmy Hart! It should be noted that Lawler was disqualified for applying a piledriver to both men—simultaneously!

As a result of the outcome of the match, Kaufman and Hart began a heated feud. Eventually, the TV star teamed with Lawler to face off against Hart and his Assassins. True to form, Lawler and Kaufman went at it again by the end of the grudge feud.

Since that time, "the King" has held numerous versions of the World title, including those recognized by the AWA, WCCW, CWA, and the USWA. It would be impossible to count the number of Lawler's title reigns; he continues to lose and regain the USWA on an almost weekly basis in Memphis to the likes of Papa Shango, Owen Hart, the Snowman, the Russian Brute, Terry Funk, and "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert.

After years of a bitter rivalry with the WWF, the USWA has worked out a successful talent trade, which has brought about another irony in the life of "the King." For the past eight years, Lawler has publicly denounced the WWF and its wrestlers. Now he's part of their troupe, but he has retained his own unique identity.

What is most interesting is the fan reaction to his WWF activity. When wrestling Bret Hart and Randy Savage in the Northeast, he is a despised rulebreaker; but on home turf, he can do no wrong against the same opposition. It's just another example of the wacky soap opera that is otherwise known as the bizarro world of Jerry "the King" Lawler. ***NWW***

WELCOME TO THE WEIRD WARS OF THE UNDERTAKER

story by Michael O'Hara
photos by Jeff Cohen & Jerry Wilson

EVER SINCE HIS ABRUPT ROLE REVERSAL IN THE WWF A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, the six-foot-eight-inch, 312-pound, zombie-like wrestler who answers to the moniker of the Undertaker, has taken the role of resident exorcist. Whenever a gladiator arrives on the scene with a demonic twist or a monstrous disposition, the cool ghoul is called upon to enter into another of his personal weird wars.

The grim reaper of the grappling game began along this peculiar path with his first fiendish feud against none other than Jake "the Snake" Roberts, the WWF's answer to Bela Lugosi! If you recall, Roberts was primed and ready to sneak attack Randy "Macho Man" Savage and the lovely Elizabeth from behind the locker room curtains during a televised event. Surprisingly, the solemn superstar intervened, and, much to the delight of mat fans everywhere, a new and incredibly unusual anti-hero was born!

Roberts quickly found himself overmatched, and he became the first of the Undertaker's "dearly departed" from WWF turf. After banishing "the Snake," the master of the tombstone found himself as

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New Wave Wrestlers **TM & © 1993 Michael O'Hara**

Zokuzuna's massive bulk provided little protection against the Undertaker's flying elbow smash!

the promoter's top choice for every conceivable mat monster that rumbled his way on to the scene.

Although they will never go down in the annals of wrestling history as classic confrontations, the Undertaker-Giant Gonzalez grudge matches were not without their appeal. Each time they squared off in center ring, you felt as if you were watching a battle of epic proportions in the tradition of King Kong versus Godzilla. There wasn't much in the way of takedowns and wristlocks, but it was nonstop action nonetheless.

While the series of matches never really seemed to reach a dramatic conclusion, it was fun while it lasted. To the credit of seven-foot-seven-inch Giant Gonzalez, he has made tremendous strides since leaving the National Basketball Team of Argentina to embark on a grappling career in the U.S. approximately four years ago. Clearly, his matches against the ghoulish gladiator have added greater polish to his ever-improving ring tactics.

In recent outings, the crypt-keeping crippler has split his energies into feuds with a couple of heavies... and I do mean HEAVIES!

The hulking Mister (Curtis) Hughes was an impregnable brick wall that few, if any, were able to overtake, but the dark avenger of the rasslin' ring forged onward until the ebony giant became nothing more than another feather in his mortician's cap.

Next in line comes, the sushi bar that walks like a man, Yokozuna, the 500-plus-pounder who has squashed (literally) the biggest and best that the Federation has thrown his way. If the Undertaker can get past this, the biggest of the big men, there is another newcomer on the horizon...the Vampire Warrior (direct from a successful USWA stint). At the rate the WWF is going, every wrestling event for the next few months is going to seem like Halloween! ***NWW***

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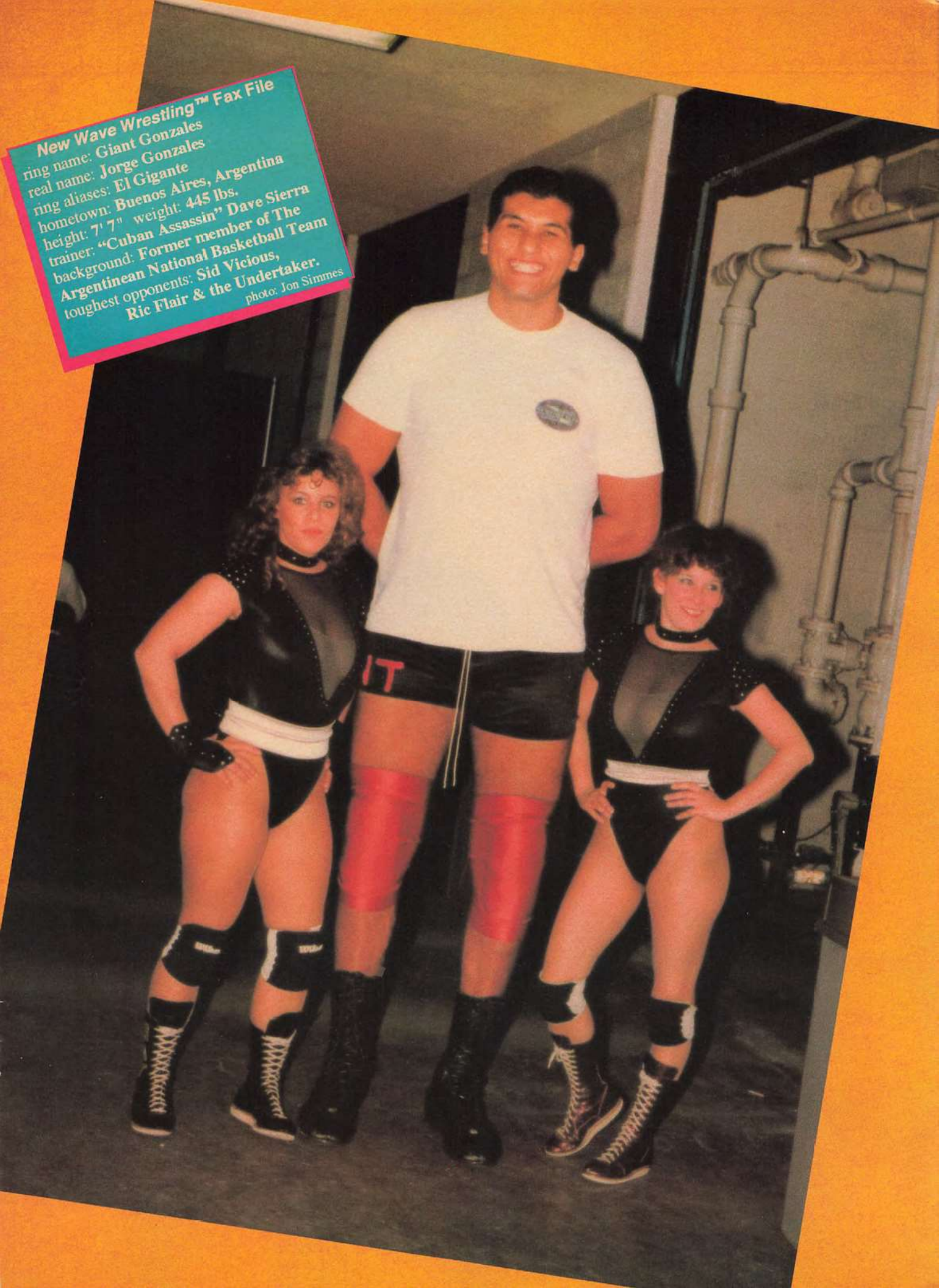
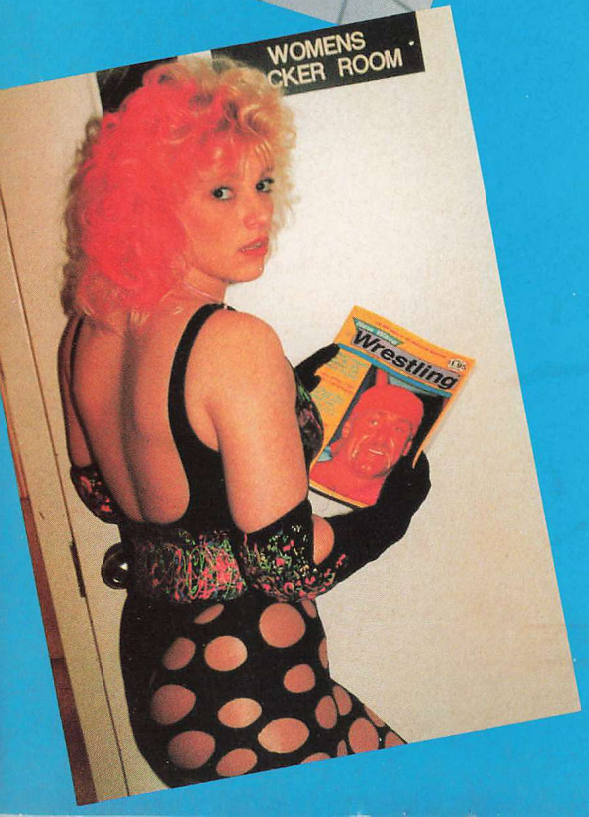
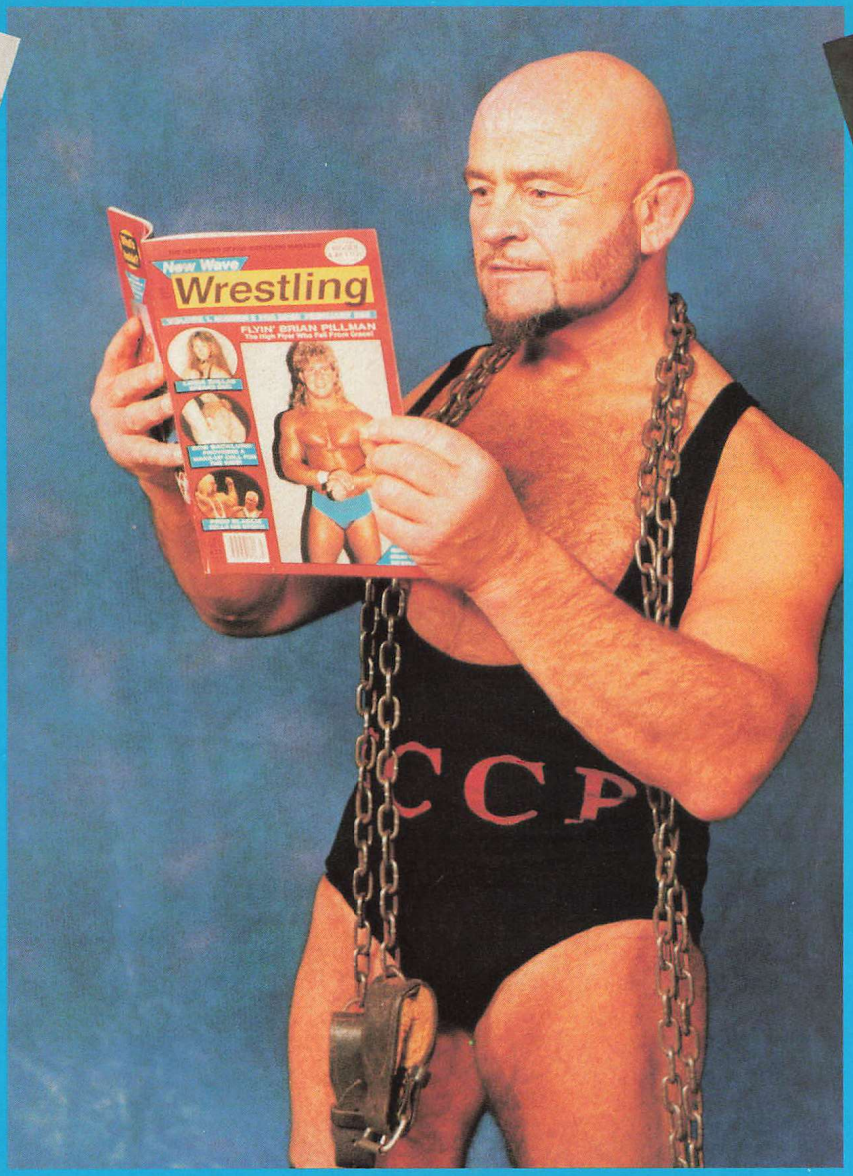
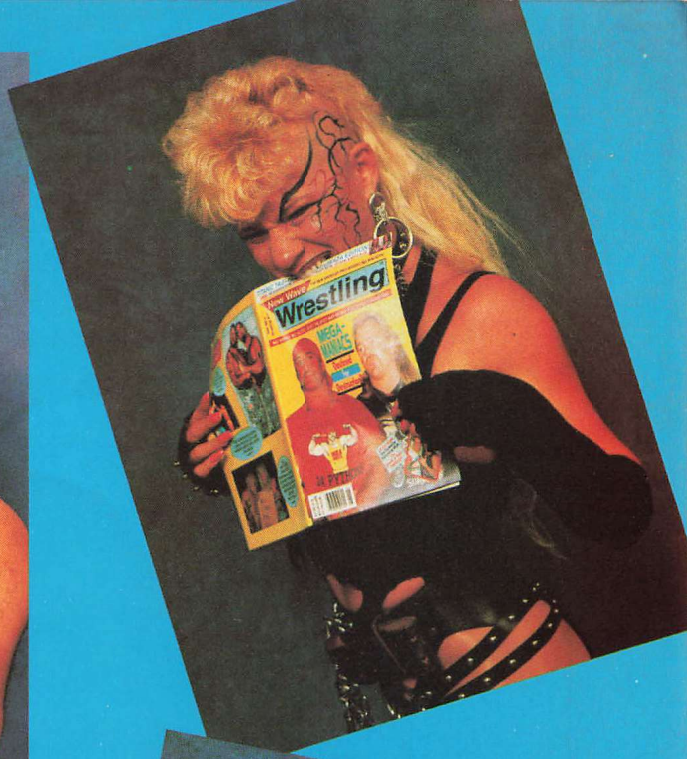
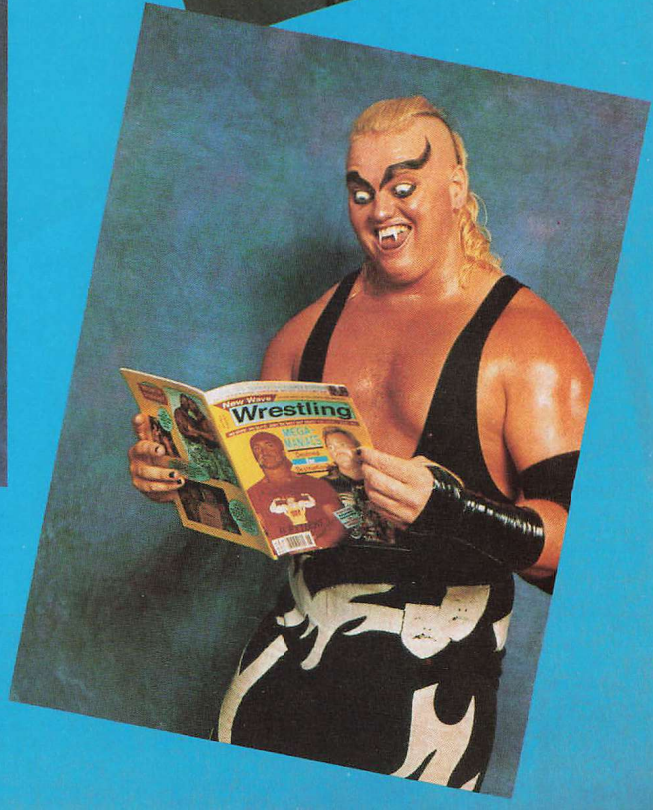

New Wave Wrestling™ Fax File
ring name: Giant Gonzales
real name: Jorge Gonzales
ring aliases: El Gigante
hometown: Buenos Aires, Argentina
height: 7' 7" weight: 445 lbs.
trainer: "Cuban Assassin" Dave Sierra
background: Former member of The Argentinean National Basketball Team
toughest opponents: Sid Vicious, Ric Flair & the Undertaker.
photo: Jon Simmes









New Wave THE NEW BREED OF PRO-WRESTLING MAGAZINE

Wrestling™

1994

1994

1994

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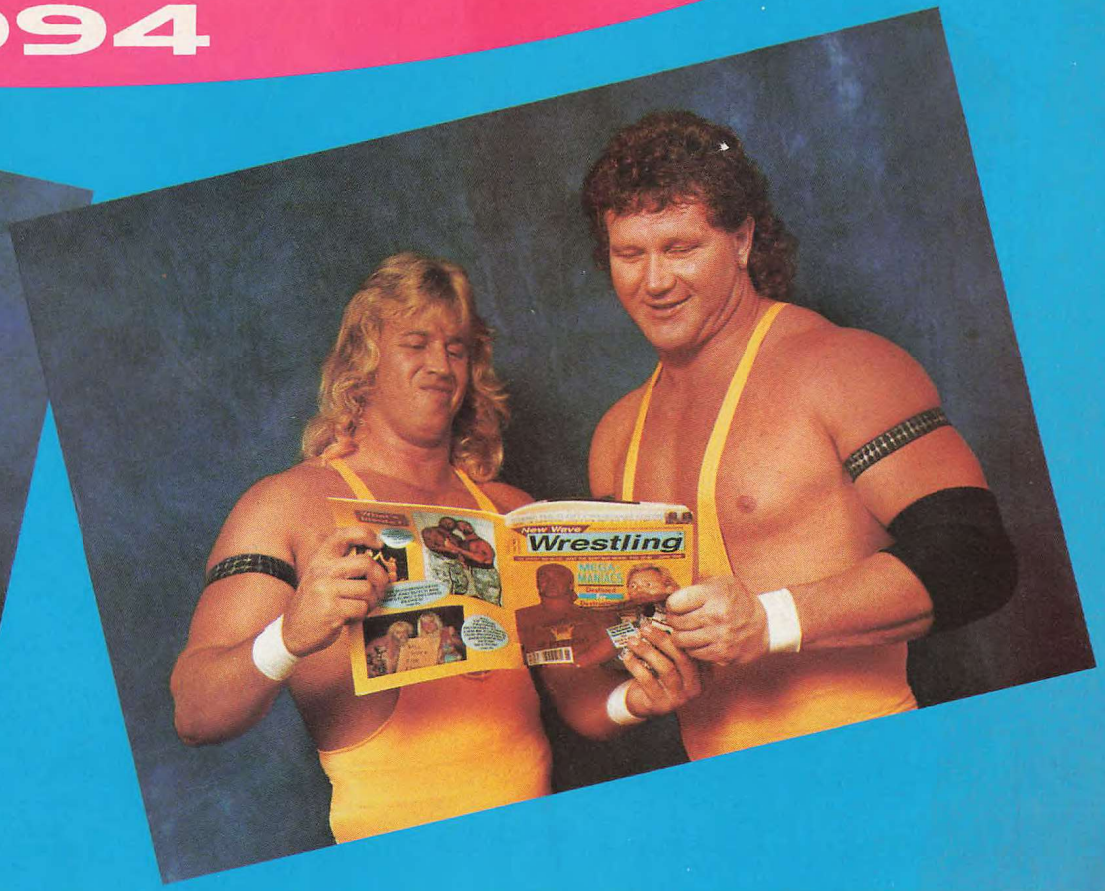

New Wave Wrestling™ Fax File

name: **The Red Flame**
height: **5' 5"** weight: **125 lbs.**
hobbies: **bodybuilding, modeling, horseback riding, movie/stunt work, and tattoos.**
movie/tv credits: **Thirtysomething, Eye On Los Angeles, Cobra (with Sly Stallone), and Married With Children**

photo: E.L. Hoffman

Warrior Woman

THE RED FLAME

Too Hot To Handle!

by E.L. Hoffman

AWESOME...POWERFUL...DANGEROUS. These are the words that come to mind when you meet pro- wrestling's dragon lady—the Red Flame.

With her mane of fire-red hair, long futuristic leather boots, and impressive dragon tattoo covering most of her body, the Red Flame is an explosive force held in check. Barely five-foot-five and weighing 130 pounds, Flame has become one of the most colorful gladiators in the world of women's professional wrestling.

Anyone who has seen her in live action or on the nationally syndicated LPWA cable TV program know that she goes into the ring with only one purpose in mind—to win her match any way she can.

Starting off her ring career as a rule-breaker, Flame soon changed her ways and became a fan favorite. The ever-changing, volatile vixen quickly tired of playing by the rules. After enduring the underhanded actions of her opponents, she returned to her previous wicked ways.

"It doesn't matter who is the hero or the villain. In the ring, the name of the game is survival of the fittest. Oh, sure, you can have the crowd yelling for you to play by the rules, but when you're getting worked over or double-teamed, it doesn't mean a thing. I've received my fair share of permanent injuries. No more playing by the rules for me! I wasn't being myself in the ring, and I paid the price with a few serious injuries."

Her philosophy of being herself has made Flame one of the most potentially dangerous contenders in the ring. Besides utilizing her great physical strength, Flame has avoided any one predictable style. She prefers to keep her foes off balance at all times.

They might find themselves dealing with a brawler in one match, or competing against a skilled mat technician who knows how to turn scientific tactics into devastating defeat. Even more deadly is her unique way of combining mat skill and brutal tactics into a most unusual winning combination.

"I don't like to stick with one particular pattern. Opponents can become familiar with your routine. Sooner or later, they'll be prepared for your one favorite finishing move, then bang—it's all over! I don't let that happen. I

like to keep them worried."

"I've had trouble many times with some of the stuff I do in the ring. Whenever I use my version of the piledriver, everyone gets bent out of shape—the fans, the referee, the promoter. The referees are the worst!"

"I remember one match that turned into a real farce. The referee would stop everything! Once, I had my opponent pinned, and he actually dumped me off her! In another match, the referee disqualified me because this little so-and-so claimed that I was using a foreign object."

"Let me set the record straight. I don't need any weapons or foreign objects. Why would I need any objects? My whole body is a lethal weapon. Some of those lousy referees—Boy, what they'll do to protect those little %@*#<¿!"

The obvious question still remains: If the rules bother her so much, why does she continue to wrestle?

"I like combat," she snaps. "I'm a warrior, a fighter. The dragons on my body stand for that. I know I'm one of the best. I'm ready to match my power and skill against any opponent. There's also the money. I may enjoy the action, but I'm not stupid."

"I really want to capture some of those championship belts. When you're the best, you need the titles to signify that you're the best. The titles bring respect and money. Whoever is standing between me and the belts better look out!"

When she is not in hot pursuit of the women's world championship, Red Flame has other interests which includes an emerging film career. Her most notable credits include *Cobra* (with Sly Stallone), *Thirtysomething*, *Married With Children*, *American Eagles*, *Eye on Los Angeles*, and Janet Jackson's *Escapade*.

With her unique and intimidating "cyber-punk" look, the Red Flame would certainly be at home in bizarre futuristic movies like *The Blade Runner*, *Terminator*, and *Mad Max*.

"I am getting more and more involved in motion pictures. Many of my film roles have required that I wrestle or fight, so it's a natural extension of what I love to do," stated the raven-haired beauty.

For the present time, the Red Flame is out to prove to everyone that she is definitely a force to be reckoned with, as she unleashes her own colorful brand of mayhem against all her opponents in the fiery ring.

"You know what they say about fire, don't you? Well, just remember this, anyone who wants to take on the Red Flame just might get burned. I'm just too hot to handle!" ***NWW***

Flame is seen here with tag-team partner Brittany Brown.

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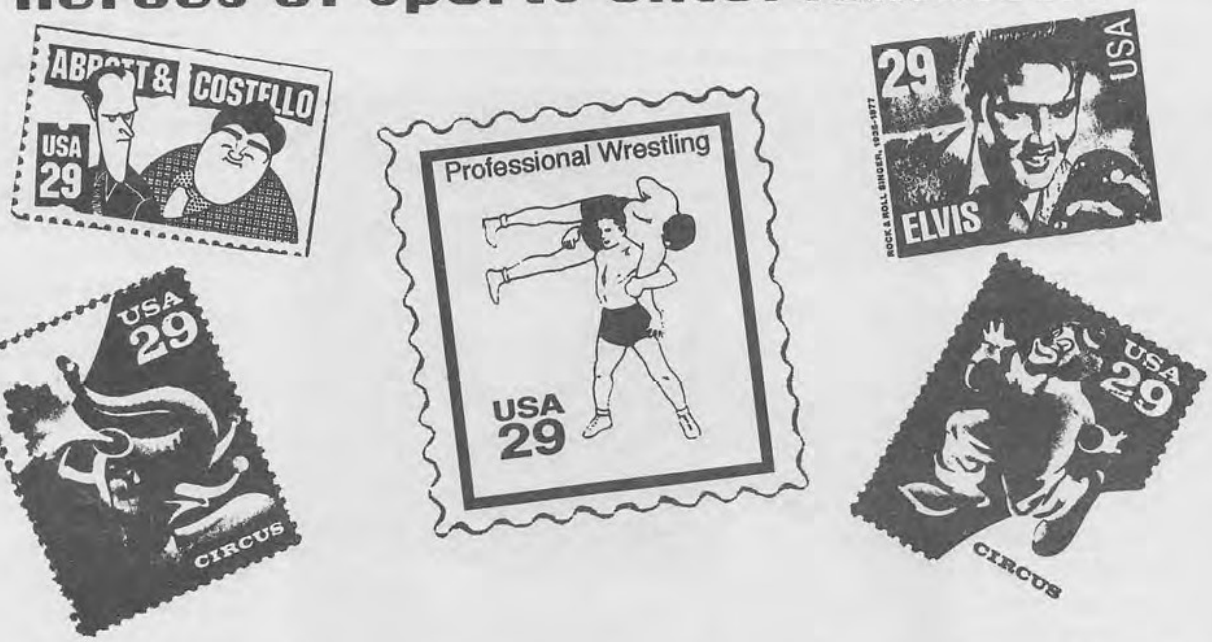

The United States Postal Service has honored famous Americans and American genres from rock 'n' roll stars to famous Hollywood comedians, but nothing is more indefinably American than professional wrestling. It's grandiose and bigger than life, with a tried-and-true tradition of good emerging triumphant over evil. Ever since William Muldoon was recognized as the first American World Heavyweight Wrestling Champion back in 1880, fans have thrilled to the sheer joy and excitement that can only be found within the grappling game's squared circle.

We at ***New Wave Wrestling*** are making a concerted effort, as the archeologists of professional wrestling's faded history, to perpetuate the undocumented past of our beloved sport, but we need your help. We encourage every ***New Waver*** to fill out the ballot below, and return it to us at your earliest convenience. Please make additional photocopies and pass them on to your friends. We need **THOUSANDS** of responses, so that we can petition the Postmaster General of the United States.

It's going to be a tough job, and it's going to take a great deal of work, but with the help and support of wrestling fans from around the world, coming together for one, unified cause, we can do it! We need everyone's help, including all our ***New Wavers*** from overseas!

Please fill out the ballot below. THANKS!

Mike O'Hara & the Gang at NWW HQ

OFFICIAL PETITION

Please return your ballot to:
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Dear Postmaster General,

I am placing my petition, along with other fellow mat enthusiasts, to request a stamp commemorating professional wrestling. In 1995, the grappling game will be celebrating its 115th year in the United States. It certainly would be a fitting tribute to the countless thousands of hardworking men and women who have competed within the squared circle, and who have brought so much joy to their admiring fans of all ages for decades. Please consider our petition. Thank you.

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RING THE BELL on Archive.org

The INDEPENDENT Scene

compiled by Michael O'Hara

• **AWL:** Angelo Poffo's group, based in Sarasota, Florida, is under reorganization. No recent shows have been scheduled.

• **CW-USA:** Sandy Barr's Portland, Oregon-based promotion is currently at war with the Oregon Boxing and Wrestling Commission. From our last report, Barr has been running shows without being licensed by the state. To alleviate additional taxation, Sandy has been running free shows, but he is charging $7.00 for parking in an effort to recoup his expenses.

Bruiser Brian, a powerful young rookie, has become a fan favorite, and he is now feuding with Jesse Barr...The TV title has bounced back and forth between Col. DeBeers (Ed Wiskowski) and the Silver Shadow...Others in the area include: Buddy Wayne, Karl & Jim Pope, Dane Rush, Lou Andrews, Sumito, Nick Danger, and the Hawaiian Kid.

Other Northwest Notes—Oregon has also issued a new Pay-Per-View Tax. As a result, this, plus a bad regional economy and an increase in taxes, the once vibrant Oregon/Washington state territories are near death...The WWF has removed its syndicated program. If you will recall from earlier issues, the WWF replaced Don Owen's Big Time Wrestling, which was a fixture in the Northwest since TV's inception.

Linda Dallas: One of the top independent U.S. grapplerettes. photo: Jon Simmes

Billy Jack Haynes has given up on the idea of promoting in Oregon after a misunderstanding concerning fees charged to rent seating in the Mollowa Fairgrounds. Billy was under the impression that Fairgrounds management agreed to a fee of $1.00 for each seat sold. The Fairgrounds, however, wanted $1.00 for each of its 8,000 seats, regardless whether occupied or empty. In recent years, regional promoters have never been able to do much better than an attendance of 1,000.

Our condolences to Billy Jack Haynes on the recent passing away of his father, William.

• **ECW:** Todd Gordon's Eastern Championship Wrestling group has been holding TV tapings in Philadelphia, PA. The program is shown on the SportsChannel cable network. Highlights from recent tapings have included: Tony "Hitman" Stetson defeating Tommy Cairo for the Pennsylvania HC! Tito Santana pinning Don Muraco for the ECW title. Eddie Gilbert & the Dark Patriot (Eddie's younger brother, Doug) defeating Salvatore Bellomo & the Sandman for the ECW TTC! Other wrestlers working on the circuit include: Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka, Sensational Sherry, Terry Funk, manager Paul E. Dangerously, and the Super Destroyers.

• **GWF:** Not much to report here, Rod Price is back in action after a serious injury. It seems that "Gentleman" Chris Adams bloodied Rod in a donnybrook that required well over 100 stitches!...Koko B. Ware has worked spot shows... Iceman King Parsons is back in his role of a ring villain (heel)...Current GWF stars include: Alex Porteau, Johnny Mantell, Black Bart, the Angel of Death, and Calvin Knapp.

• **ICWA/WWA (FL):** This Tampa-based league continues to use green (but talented) grapplers from the area, but not much else...They have a newcomer from Abruzzi, Italy named (drum roll, please) Sam Martino (Sheesh!)... The titles changes so regularly here that it's almost impossible to keep track of them...The Mighty Hercules (Ray Hernandez) holds the heavyweight crown as we go to press... The top contender is the Cuban Assassin (David Sierra), who has held the title for most of the last few months...Recent competitors have included: Howard D. Rathbone, "Magnificent" Bill Pain, plus grapplerettes Sweet Linda and Hot Stuff.

• **IWF (New England):** Promoter Killer Kowalski

uses talented graduates from his wrestling school ...Terra Ryzing holds the heavyweight title...Perry Saturn is the light-heavyweight champion... Brittany Brown is the Ladies champion...Others here include: Bulldozer, Snookie Fink, Chris Duffy, and Tim McNeany.

• **IWF (Florida):** *New Port Richey, FL*—The Junk Yard Dog, Chubby M.C. & Odessa Slim defeated Cliff Anderson, the Possessor & the Nuclear Assassin. Lance von Erich (Ricky Vaughn) pinned The Skeletor. The Mighty Thor pinned "Downtown" Denny Brown. The Southern Posse pinned the New Long Riders: Little Joe & Hoss (original, eh!). "Lightning" Lou Perez pinned Buck Quartermain. Mixed tag—Nasty Ronnie & Twisted Sister pinned Miss Florida & Chris "The Doctor" Proctor. ("Sis" used brass knuckles.) Attendance 400.

• **LMLW:** *Cherry Hill, NJ*— Heidi Lee Morgan went to a no contest with Rusty "the Fox" Thomas. Misty Blue pinned Nasty Girl Angel. Wendi Richter defeated Kat LaRoux in a death match. Candi Divine beat Lady X via disqualification in a dog-collar match. Penelope Paradise (managed by Sir Oliver Humperdink) upset Bambi for the LMLW title! Team America (Misty Blue & Heidi Lee Morgan) pinned the Nasty Girls. Wendi Richter went to a double disqualification with Rusty Thomas. Bambi pinned Lady X. Penelope Paradise pinned Candi Divine. Bambi pinned Paradise to regain the LMLW title! Bambi also won the eight-girl elimination match.

The Moondogs: Top dogs on the USWA circuit. photo: Jerry Wilson

• **MBTW (Florida):** The Tampa-based league (Malenko's Big Time Wrestling) consists primarily of talented graduates from the legendary Boris "the Professor" Malenko's Pro-Wrestling Academy... Horisha, a Talented 20-year-old rookie, is the son of former NWA World junior-heavyweight champion Hiro Matsuda...Other competitors include: Eric Long, Manny Fernandez, A.J. Andrews, Jumbo Barretta, and Jim Powers.

• **MECW (Florida):** Main Event Championship Wrestling is the proposed new promotion headed by Hulk Hogan, with Hiro Matsuda and Jimmy Hart. The former WWF champ is hopeful of using the Bayfront Center in St. Petersburg as his main base of operation. Rumor has it that he is currently negotiating with ESPN, the nationwide sports cable channel. If all goes well, this promotion could be up and running by early 1994. Tentative wrestlers to appear on the circuit include: Brutus Beefcake, Jim "the Anvil" Neidhart, Hillbilly Jim, the Honky Tonk Man, and Nikita Koloff.

• **SMW:** Expect to see more talent exchanged between Jim Cornette's group and the WWF. The New Heavenly Bodies (Dr. Tom Prichard and Jimmy Del Rey) made a fine account of themselves in recent inter-federation encounters...Speaking of Jimmy Del Rey (Jim Richlund), he wrestled in Florida as Jim Backlund

Vivacious Toni Adams is on the prowl in the USWA. photo:Jeff Cohen

for quite a number of years before getting his big break. Keep your eyes on him, gang. He's a good one!...The Bruise Brothers (Ron & Don Harris) are slated for clashes with the Steiners in the near future—that should be interesting...Terry Funk is feuding with Bob Armstrong over the position of Commissioner in the Smoky Mountain Wrestling Promotion... Others in SMW include: Dirty White Boy, the Rock & Roll Express, Tracy Smothers, Kevin Sullivan, and Killer Kyle.

• **USWA:** Simply Divine (Rex King & Steve Doll) are now wrestling as Well Dunn in the WWF... The Vampire Warrior is expected to be one of the biggest new gimmicks in the upcoming months for the WWF. I can imagine the Vampire versus the Undertaker matches for the first half of 1994... Toni Adams, the ex-wife of "Gentleman" Chris Adams, is currently managing Brian Christopher under the name of Nanny Simpson...C.W.Bergstrom is competing here as the Principal, and he is managed by Mike Samples.

• **USWF:** This New England league lists the following champions as we go to press: USWF HC–Richard Byrne, Lightheavy champion–Perry Saturn, and Ladies champion–Jamie West...Others on the circuit include: Jimmy Snuka, Honky Tonk Man, the Warlord, Mike Sharpe, and Rio, Lord of the Jungle.

• **UWS:** This Brooklyn, NY group features S.D. Jones, Hercules, Ax and Blast: Demolition, Scott Putski, Wahoo McDaniel, and the Bushwhackers... Brass Knuckles HC–Jimmy Snuka is feuding with Greg Valentine... UWS HC–Jake "the Snake" Roberts is waging war with Nailz...Former heavyweight boxer Chuck Wepner has been doing special referee work here

• **WWA:** This Detroit, Michigan group has a fine roster of talent. Current feuds include: Bob Orton, Jr. versus Chuck Taylor, Nailz versus Jeff May, and midgets Karate Kid versus Lord Littlebrook.

• **WWN:** The World Wrestling Network (based in Texas) made its debut this past summer with such name talent as Bob Orton Junior, Jake "the Snake" Roberts, Nailz, and Road Warrior Hawk. No champions are listed at this time.

• **WWWA:** Convict Nailz is the promotion's champ, and he is feuding with another former WWF star, the Big Boss Man... Brittany Brown holds the Ladies' title.

• **ODDS 'N' ENDS:** Independent preliminary competitor Louie Spicolli is rumored to be leaving the pro-wrestling ranks for a spot as a baseball pitcher on the Detroit Tigers farm team...Dennis Coraluzzo has been promoting under the old NWA banner using Eddie Gilbert, Road Warrior Hawk, Brian Christopher, Sabu, and Jerry Lynn.

• **PASSAGES:** Sadly, we report the passing away of the following mat greats—

Stanley "Little Coco" Littlejohn, 40, following a lengthy illness.

"Bulldog" Don Kent, 60, after a long bout with cancer.

D.J. Petersen, 33, killed in a tragic motorcycle accident.

A.J. Watson, 29, died from a drug overdose.

Former WWWF promoter Phil **Zacko**, 86, died from heart failure. ***NWW***

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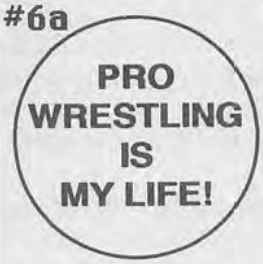

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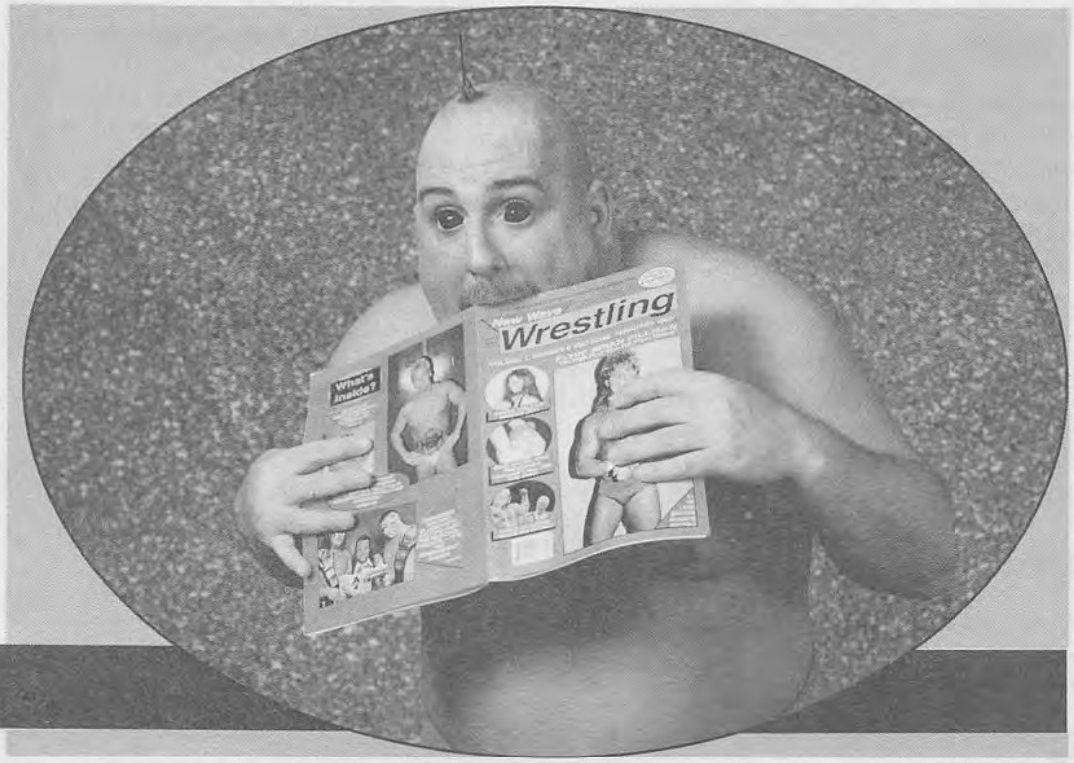

PICKS HIS TOP-TEN RING RUFFIANS!

What better way to celebrate our wonderfully wacky issue devoted to the wild and weird of the wrestling world than with a slamtastically sensational gabfest with the most misunderstood menace of the mat wars—the Mongolian Mauler! He's ready, willing, and able to present his own titanic thoughts on the top-ten roughest 'n' toughest rasslers to have ever laced up a pair of boots!

interview by Michael O'Hara
photos by Steve Bryant

NW: Since this twelfth issue of ***New Wave Wrestling*** is dedicated to the wildest and weirdest wrestlers in the world, we thought it would only be fitting to try something a little wild 'n' weird ourselves. We've come to you, since you're a true expert in ring havoc, and we'd like your no-holds-barred top-ten list of the roughest and toughest grappling gladiators of all time.

MM: It's a pleasure to talk with ***New Wave Wrestling*** once again, and I'd be more than happy to share my opinions with your great readers.

NW: Before we start your rankings, have you ever wrestled as a tag-team partner or against any of your top favorites?

MM: No, Mike, and I really wish that I had. As either a tag-team partner or an opponent, it would have been an honor to stand in the ring with any of my top ten. I have, however, been fortunate enough to be booked on the same wrestling shows as many of them, and I am grateful to count some of them as my friends.

NW: Let's start right away with your list by looking at each athlete on an individual basis.

MM: Fair enough. Starting at the very

top with my number-one choice is—obviously—The Mongolian Mauler. No one has traveled more or has faced a greater variety of top international talent than yours truly.

NW: No one can ever accuse you of lacking confidence in your great ability, that's for sure.

MM: Next on my list would have to be Abdullah the Butcher. The first time that I saw the Butcher in action was on television. He was working for promoter Pedro Martinez, who staged wrestling shows throughout the states of New York and Ohio. The "Wild Man from the Sudan" was my first major influence.

I would also have to include the original Sheik – Edward Farhat – as another major influence. I remember seeing the Sheik against Bobo Brazil in Rochester, New York. They really got me hooked into the action and excitement of this incredible sport.

NW: Well, your style is very much your own. Would it be fair to say that they had a major impact on your ring philosophy as opposed to your technique? Have there ever been times during your matches when you thought to yourself, "How would Abdullah or the Sheik handle this situation?"

MM: Definitely—100%—There's no question about it.

NW: Do you have any vivid memories of their classic feuds? You have already mentioned, for example, the Sheik against Bob Brazil. What about Abdullah?

MM: Oh, yes! Abdullah the Butcher against, my fourth choice, Frank "Bruiser" Brody in 1983 and 1984. They were working primarily on the Texas circuit—Joe Blanchard's San Antonio promotion. They just beat the heck out of one another, and they brought new meaning to the old maxillary "no holds barred!"

NW: What's amazing about that feud is they brought their grudge war around the world. They fought on most of the independent circuits as well as in Puerto Rico and overseas. It drew just as well on the international circuits as it did domestically.

MM: Yes. Top wrestling action will always draw. If the matchmaking is handled correctly, the fans will turn out in record numbers. It is a true international sport.

The Mauler & the Butcher:
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NW: So your top stars are Abdullah the Butcher, the original Sheik, and Frank "Bruiser" Brody. Who is next on your list?

MM: Without a doubt, Madison Heights, Michigan's very own—George "the Animal" Steele! He started out as the masked Student in Detroit, and then went on to superstardom. I was always fascinated by him and his patented finishing hold, the flying hammerlock.

NW: Ironically, no one uses that finish today. It was a great hold.

MM: I know. It's a fantastic move. No one uses it today, and it's a real shame, isn't it?

NW: Do you have any favorite George Steele matches?

MM: He was always a top contender for the WWWF World heavyweight championship during the title reigns of Bruno Sammartino and Pedro Morales. I remember when I saw him in a match with Dusty Rhodes held in

Sheik's number three, but he tries harder!

Springfield, Massachusetts. That was a great one!

I remember one very unusual main event where he was scheduled against the Sheik. They both came out to the ring, and after the bell had rung, George immediately began to chase the Sheik around the ring. They ran around the outside of the ring twice, and then headed right back to the dressing room. That was it! (Laughs)

NW: An easy night's pay. (Laughs)

MM: It went thirty seconds.... (Laughs)

NW: Ah, but what a memorable thirty seconds! (Laughs)

MM: Exactly!

NW: Who is next on your list?

MM: Next would be Killer Khan. I remember meeting him in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He was a very solid, knowledgeable competitor. For a big man, he had great agility. I remember seeing him do those deadly kneedrops off the second and top ring ropes. That was an incredibly devastating move.

NW: Of course, he's best known for his feud with the late, great Andre the Giant back in the early 1980s.

MM: Khan broke the big man's leg in Rochester, New York, which was some feat.

He also had a very heated feud with WWF champion Hulk Hogan in 1988. He was a longstanding contender in the Federation, and he was a true international talent.

NW: Moving on to number seven on your list....

MM: It's Haystacks Calhoun, the original 601-pound country boy! He was the very first wrestler that I ever saw on television! He was teaming with Lil' Abner Osborne against, shall we say, two less talented individuals. The heroes came to the ring wearing their overalls...their work clothes. Osborne did a body press, and then Haystacks followed by sitting on his opponent for the big finish.

NW: I remember Lil' Abner Osborne. He had a very impressive physique for that time period. He was one of the very first bodybuilders to make the transition into the grappling game.

MM: Yes. You are correct. That was a time period when promoter Pedro Martinez used top talent and great angles. The Hillbillies were very popular.

NW: Do you have any other memories of Haystacks Calhoun?

MM: I remember seeing him wrestle at the PNE Stadium in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Because of weather problems, most of the boys couldn't make it into town for the show. Calhoun actually wrestled as a villain that evening. He was quite good as a heel, but that was the only time that I ever saw him in that role.

NW: That must have been a strange change of pace. I don't recall him ever playing the role of a villain on any circuit.

MM: I remember when he arrived at the arena. He had New Mexico license plates on his truck, and he had a small U-Haul cart attached to the truck for his dogs. Back then, he would travel with his beloved pets.

This was also when he began to wear work boots into the ring.

NW: Was this in the latter part of his career?

MM: Yes. This was 1977.

NW: I remember the night Haystacks was given a shot at "Superstar" Billy Graham's WWWF World title at

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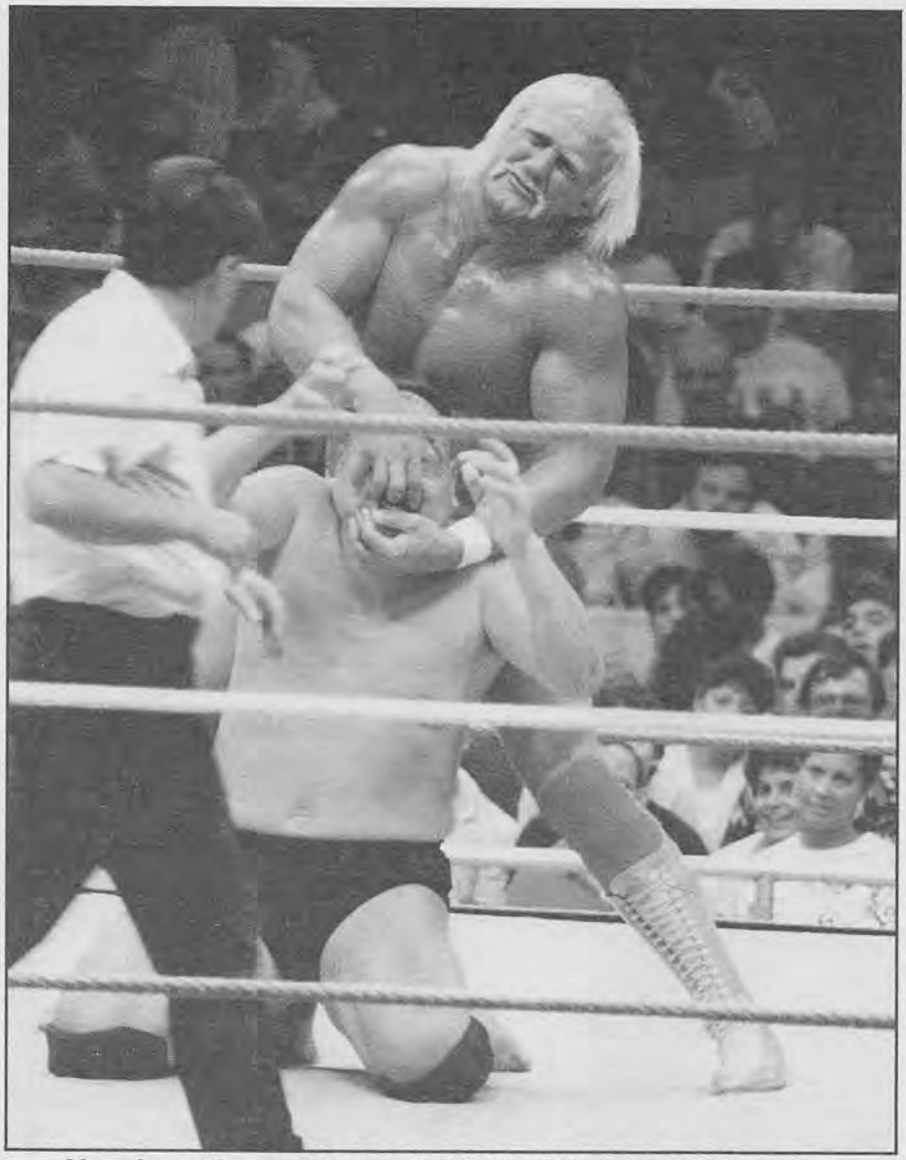


Number six on the list is Killer Khan (seen here on the receiving end of an invigorating facial—courtesy of Hulk Hogan)! photo: Michael O'Hara

Nassau Coliseum in Long Island, New York. This was 1977, and in the tradition of your memorable George Steele-Sheik match, which lasted only thirty seconds, here's another one!

The bell rang, and Calhoun removed his lucky horseshoe from around his neck. He turned and draped it over the corner ring post. Of course as soon as he turned his back, Graham came charging at him, planting a knee into the base of the big man's spine. Haystacks went straight over the top rope, and he was counted out of the ring by the referee. That was another thirty-second main event.

The arena immediately threw on the houselights for intermission, and, needless to say, the fans weren't too enthusiastic about the whole thing. (Laughs)

MM: Oh, boy!

Well, moving on to the eighth man on my list, it's Walter "Killer" Kowalski—the man who prepared me for my career in the professional ranks.

Most mat history buffs remember the story of how he took Yukon Eric's ear off with a devastating kneedrop.

I just saw him a few months ago, and he's still in fantastic shape. This year he came out of retirement and returned to the ring for a number of matches against the Honky Tonk Man.

NW: He also wrestled "the Golden Greek" John Tolos in Japan during these last twelve months.

MM: Right. He also wrestled against Nicolai Volkoff in Westwood, Massachusetts. I was booked on the same card with them.

NW: Have you spoken to "the Killer" since his return to the ring wars?

MM: Yes, I have.

NW: Does he plan on accepting more challenges in the future?

MM: I believe he has a few more matches lined up against the Honky Tonk Man.

NW: I wonder if we could ever hope to see "Killer" Kowalski and Bruno Sammartino go at it one more time. I know Bruno has not wrestled in a while, but he always remains in top shape.

MM: That would be something, wouldn't it?

NW: Some creative promoter should be working on that right now. I think they'd be very pleasantly surprised at the gate receipts from that one.

MM: I think Bruno would consider it, wouldn't he?

NW: I would think so. If someone could secure the right venue, as well as the right financial situation to compensate all parties concerned, there's no doubt that you could fill an arena in the Northeast with a main event like that. Taking it one step further—the videotape revenue would also be tremendous.

MM: When I saw Kowalski last time, I can tell you that he's as impressive as ever. He's amazing!

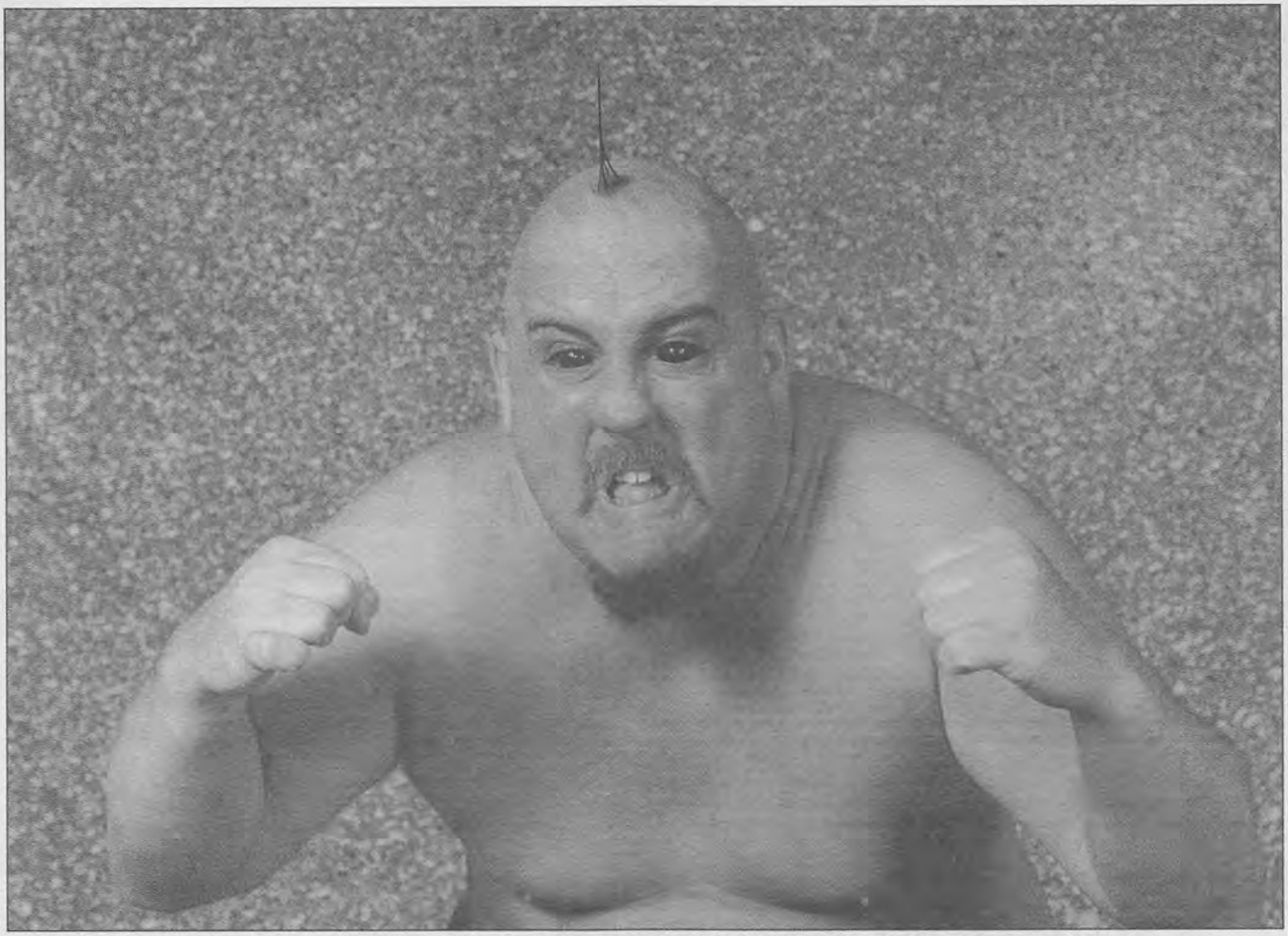
NW: He really subscribes to living a Spartan lifestyle. Once they retire from the ring, many of the guys let themselves go. Kowalski is a vegetarian and a fitness fanatic. He can still get the job done. He never stops.

MM: The last time that I wrestled on one of his shows, he picked me up at the airport. It was great to see him again.

NW: As a young wrestling fan, did you ever meet any of your ring idols?

MM: I met the Sheik in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. He was the best villain ever. He certainly made the most money in his day.

I also met the late Frank "Bruiser" Brody many times. I used to run some wrestling shows myself. I matched Abdullah and Brody against one another several times in 1985 and 1986,



Sure, your pals at *New Wave Wrestling HQ* might disagree with the Mongolian Mauler's choices; but, when a guy looks like this, who's gonna argue with him! photo: Steve Bryant

but I talked to Frank for years prior to that.

My biggest thrills were meeting Haystacks Calhoun and "Killer" Kowalski.

NW: How old were you at the time?

MM: I was 13 or 14 years old, I guess.

NW: So a teenage Mongolian Mauler was gaining a glimpse of what was to come.

MM: Yes. Things were in the works. (Laughs)

NW: Were you thinking of a career in professional wrestling at that time? When you watched the matches, then later talked to the wrestlers, would you try to pick up any of their nuances?

MM: Yes. I was hooked on professional wrestling by then. I'm sure that each and every one of yesterday's legends left some kind of an imprint on me.

NW: You then eventually put it all together, and, lo and behold—the Mongolian Mauler was born!

MM: Exactly.

NW: That's very interesting. It reminds me of a photograph that I've seen of a teenage Bill Clinton shaking hands with President Kennedy in the early 1960s. It's amazing to see the President of that time talking with a youngster who eventually grew up to follow in his footsteps.

When you think in terms of wrestling, how many times have wrestlers talked with young fans, not realizing that this youngster might become a peer within the next ten years? That very same kid that he brushed off, or gave an autograph to, might be facing him in the ring, or tagging in during a match.

MM: Right. Well, I was a small kid, so I'm sure I shocked many of them. (Laughs)

NW: Really. As a youngster coming up to these massive monsters, what were the statistics of the 14-year-old Mongolian Mauler?

MM: I was five-foot-nine and, maybe, 150 pounds. I can remember the very first card that I attended. Promoter Phil Zacko had signed a 25-man battle royal.

NW: I always remembered Zacko's publicity photo in the arena programs. He used the same photo year after year. His head was tilted to one side as if someone had just delivered a lariat or clothesline to his head. Do you remember that?

MM: Yes, I do. (Laughs) On the card that night, I saw the Executioners, "Killer" Kowalski and "Big" John Studd, compete against Chief Billy White Wolf and Chief Jay Strongbow.

After the show, I went up to these guys, and I thought to myself, "Geez, these guys aren't going to hit me, are they?" I was a little intimidated, I can

If not for Walter "Killer" Kowalski (seen here against Lou Thesz), there may have never been a Mongolian Mauler! photo: Michael O'Hara

tell you.

Bobo Brazil, Dr. Bill Miller, and "Pretty Boy" Larry Sharpe were there that night. There was a huge roster of talent in attendance.

NW: Would you hang around at the back entrance to meet the stars?

MM: I used to travel to Toronto, Canada regularly, where the boys used to stay at the Hotel Westbury. I would hang around in the hotel lobby, waiting for the guys to walk in.

I remember running up to Bobby "the Brain" Heenan saying, "How are you, Bobby?" He totally brushed me off. What a consummate heel—he was always in character.

NW: Hey! Let's get back to your top ten.

MM: Right! Number nine on my list is Harley Race. You know, younger fans are not aware of how different things are today. Professional wrestling was very territorial ten years ago. If you lived in a WWWF area, you never had an opportunity to see NWA or AWA stars.

The first time I saw Harley Race, I was in awe of his control. I was not used to seeing that style of wrestling. He had a classic NWA style, which was different from the other leagues.

NW: Away from the Northeast, there was a different style of wrestling. It was less brawling, and it was much more serious. The NWA wrestling had a certain finesse to it. The AWA was scientific, and Memphis was very rough 'n' tumble.

MM: Yes. It was not until 1988 or 1989 that I was lucky enough to work with Harley Race in the Maritimes for Promoter Emile Dupree.

NW: You were working on the same card as Race, or were you competing against him?

MM: I was working on the same card as Race. This was when he had just finished up as "the King" for the WWF.

He's so methodical—a fantastic guy to watch in the ring and to be around. What great stories he has to tell!

I remember when we were in Frederickton, New Brunswick, and I became aware of the fact that Race was a pretty heavy cigarette smoker. That night, we were in the dressing room, and he had just lit a smoke. The ring boy ran in to tell Race that it was time for his bout. He turned to me and said, "Well, here goes the last vitamin, kid."

He quickly smoked his cigarette, and he went out for his match. He didn't come back to the dressing room for 30 to 40 minutes, and, when he did come back, he wasn't even winded! Talk about a natural athlete.

NW: That's incredible. There are some guys in this business who can do that. Ric Flair is another one who can burn the candle at both ends; yet, he can compete every night in stellar matches.

MM: Right. Race was fantastic to me. He was great to be around. He's willing to advise the younger guys and to help them along. He really wants to see the sport survive and thrive.

I can say nothing but good things about him. He made sure that all the wrestlers were paid. He also made sure we received our full advances, even when the promoter had no intention of paying us. He really took care of everyone.

I remember one night in Canada, the promoter, who shall remain nameless, was crying, "I have no money! I have no money!" He wasn't going to pay any of us.

Harley turned to the crew and said, "Well, boys, give me ten minutes. Don't worry, I'll take care of it for you." Ten minutes later, Harley returned, and, sure enough, he had our pay.

NW: Is the old Gran Prix circuit still in existence?

MM: Steve Pettipas and Paul Peller are handling the bookings now. They did very well last summer. They're trying to get hooked up again with a local television station.

NW: I don't believe that they brought in any outside talent last year.

"The first time I saw Harley Race, I was in awe of his control. I was not used to seeing that style of wrestling. He had a classic NWA style, which was different from the other leagues."
Mongolian Mauler

MM: Right. They booked local talent like Goldie Rodgers and Bobby Bass.
NW: Anyway, back to Harley Race.
MM: Oh, yeah. I can remember all of his feuds with Ric Flair and Dusty Rhodes. I saw his NWA versus WWF double title match with Bob Backlund at Madison Square Garden.

What a talent! Overall, he's the best ever. He could compete against any style. I remember seeing him in a tag-team match with Stan Hansen against the Road Warriors at the Sun Dome in Tampa, Florida.
NW: You really traveled a great deal to see quality wrestling matches, didn't you?
MM: Somehow, I was always around the business. Bob Dylan said, "Like a rolling stone." That was me back then. Even the wrestlers started to recognize me. I'm sure they'd say to themselves, "Where is this guy from, and what's he doing here?"
NW: So you were a nomadic type of a guy, who traveled a great deal, and who always found the local wrestling action.
MM: Right. I was in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1977. I went to the arena in St. Paul, and I was talking to Ray "the Crippler" Stevens, Lord Alfred Hayes, and the High Flyers (Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell). That was a Friday night show. I took a flight back home on Sunday morning. I was living in upstate New York at the time. No sooner did I arrive home when a friend called to invite me to the matches at Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto, Canada for that same night.

So here we are standing at the back door of Maple Leaf Gardens, and who comes walking to the arena but Gagne and Brunzell, who I had seen two nights earlier in St. Paul. You should have seen the expressions on their faces, as if they were saying, "Oh, my God! Here's this guy again. Who the heck is this guy!" (Laughs)
NW: Frank Tunney did a really fine job of matchmaking. He would literally bring in guys from every North American promotion. You had the Detroit crew, such as the Sheik, Dick "the Bulldog" Brower, and Ox Baker, Jim Crockett's mid-Atlantic troupe, Gagne's AWA boys, and a sprinkling of WWF talent.
MM: Frank Tunney provided a fantastic mix of stars. I remember seeing Mil Mascaras against Angelo "King Kong" Mosca at the Gardens. I had the pleasure of wrestling Mascaras. He's a super-hero of wrestling. There's no question about that.

But in answer to your previous question, oh, yeah, I traveled a great deal. I was a nomad, but I've settled down a bit since then.
NW: You could have been considered professional wrestling's equivalent to a "Dead-Head."
MM: How's that?
NW: You must have heard of that term. There are diehard music fans of the Grateful Dead, and they follow the band from town to town to attend their concerts.
MM: Oh, okay. I get it. The difference is when I became old enough, I just went out there, and I did it.
NW: Do you think that people have that same emotional connection to wrestling today? Years ago, fans would travel great distances to see top matches. Fans would hop a plane to see Nick Bockwinkel defend his AWA strap against "Bruiser" Brody in San Antonio, Texas.

When Dusty Rhodes captured the NWA World title for the first time, a friend of mine traveled to Florida to see his first return match with Harley Race, the former champion. There was a greater level of enthusiasm in people then. I don't see that today. Do you?
MM: I don't think it exists anymore either, Mike. Cable television has killed all of that.
NW: Although you've garnered a wealth of experience in the game, you're still a young man with dreams of the future. What are your career goals?
MM: There's only one thing that I ever really wanted to achieve, and that's to wrestle in Madison Square Garden. I hope that I can make it happen someday.
NW: Well, you've become such an established star in the British rings, and with the WWF so busy in England, you'd be a logical acquisition for their emerging European circuit. They would be smart to go in that direction.
MM: Finally, last, but not least, on my top-ten list is "the Nature Boy" Ric Flair. What can I say about him? He's a professional with a capital

Ric Flair's vulnerability is the secret ingredient to the Nature Boy's draw at the gate. photo: Michael O'Hara

"P." From his interviews to his ability, everything about him is style. He could wrestle a broomstick and turn it into a classic contest. You have to respect what he's done.

NW: You also have to respect his generosity in the ring. He's always willing to make his opponent look good. He retains a quality of vulnerability. He's doesn't compete as if he's impervious to his opponent's assault.

What the truly great villain champions had–wrestlers like Flair, Billy Graham, Buddy Rogers, and Nick Bockwinkel–was their generosity. They always appeared to be on the verge of defeat. I remember seeing Dusty Rhodes beating "Superstar" Billy Graham in various tests of strength. That made the contest even more interesting. Comparing Graham to Rhodes on a physical level, there would be no contest. If Graham had taken the philosophy of being superhuman, you'd never have been able to sell a single ticket for a contest pitting a mountain of muscle defending his laurels against a vastly inferior physical opponent.

It was a formula that worked, and the promoters have thrown it all away.

MM: That's why the promoters can still draw money with Ric Flair. They can't say that about too many other top stars these days.

NW: Not to be disrespectful to Hulk Hogan and Big Van Vader, but where's the selling point to the general audience? Where is the fan appeal in a situation where the number-one ranking contender is immediately perceived as an outclassed underdog.

MM: Exactly. Flair keeps the old tradition alive. He's a very marketable bad boy. Ric is right up there as a very tight second place behind Harley Race in my book.

NW: Do you have any memorable Flair matches?

MM: Some of the best matches that I have ever seen involved Ric against Dusty Rhodes, who I would certainly place within my top-fifteen rankings.

NW: Now that we've carried on about grappledom's legends, let's talk about a legend in the making—namely, the Mongolian Mauler. It has been over a year since our last conversation with you (***see New Wave Wrestling #6***), why don't you give us an update on your ring exploits.

MM: I had an unbelievable run in Great Britain. I was wrestling seven nights a week for Brian Dixon's All-Star Promotion, Max Crabtree's Joint Promotion, and the Orig Williams Promotion. They are the top three organizations in the United Kingdom. I also worked for several of the emerging independents.

I enjoyed main eventing in Bristol and Croydon. I had great matches against the likes of Tony St. Clair, Marty Jones, Tom "the Dynamite Kid" Billington, and his partner Johnny "the British Bulldog" Smith.

NW: Johnny Smith, who, I believe, is the legitimate cousin of Davey Boy Smith, did quite well on the old Stampede circuit in Calgary, Alberta, Canada some time ago.

MM: He most certainly did. He worked with the likes of Gerry Morrow and the Cuban Assassin. Johnny is a tremendous talent.

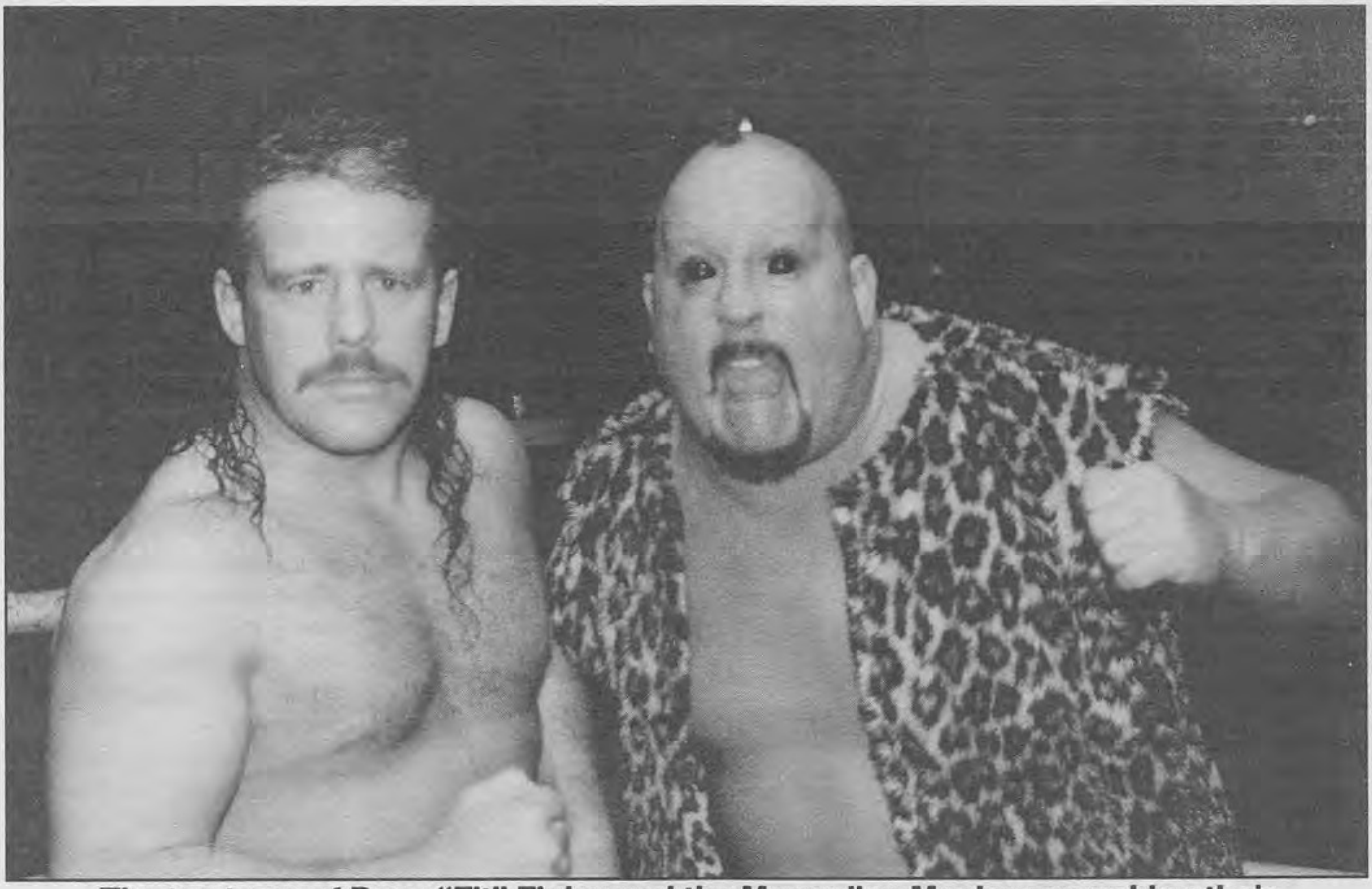
NW: How did you like tag teaming with Dave "Fit" Finlay?

MM: We were very successful against the international tag talent. I feel that some of the best wrestlers can be found in the British rings.

NW: Did you team with Dave Finlay in Germany?

MM: We sure did! We worked several nights together in Hannover and Bremen against Franz Schumann and Tony St. Clair. Dave "Rocky" Taylor also teamed with St. Clair during this tournament.

NW: That's what is so terrific about the European mat scene. People in North America are not really aware of how easy and quickly you can travel



The tag team of Dave "Fit" Finlay and the Mongolian Mauler are making their presence felt on the British and German wrestling circuits. photo: K.H. Matern

from one country to another. The trip from England to Germany is not as distant as it sounds. The easy access to different geographic locations within the European community makes for a much more diversified mix.

If a wrestler wanted to travel from New York to Mexico, we're talking about a full day of air travel.

MM: Some of the boys in England own caravans, and they take the boat over to Germany with their caravans. While on tour, they live and travel in their caravans. It's an ideal situation.

NW: Are there any additional tours of Germany in your future?

MM: Yes! By the time all your ***New Wavers*** read this, I will be competing in Hannover and Bremen in a nonstop tour from September through December for Otto Wanz and his CWA Promotion.

NW: Who else will be on the tour?

MM: The newly crowned CWA tag-team champions, Dave Taylor and Mile Zrno, will be there to defend their straps.

NW: Do you think that you and Dave Finlay might be in line for a tag-team title match?

MM: Sure. You know, Mike, their matchmaking is not like in the United States. It's not that uncommon to see scientific stars competing against one another or hated rulebreakers clashing in the ring. The opportunity is always there. I wrestle every night on tour, so I can assure you that I'll eventually wrestle everyone on the circuit.

I had some great matches against "Hustler" Rip Rogers in Germany during my last tour. That proves they'll put all types in the ring together.

NW: Rip's a dedicated professional; he is always in top condition, but he is very underrated in the United States.

MM: Yes. He's great to work with—very quick, very schooled.

NW: He had a successful tour of Japan a few months ago.

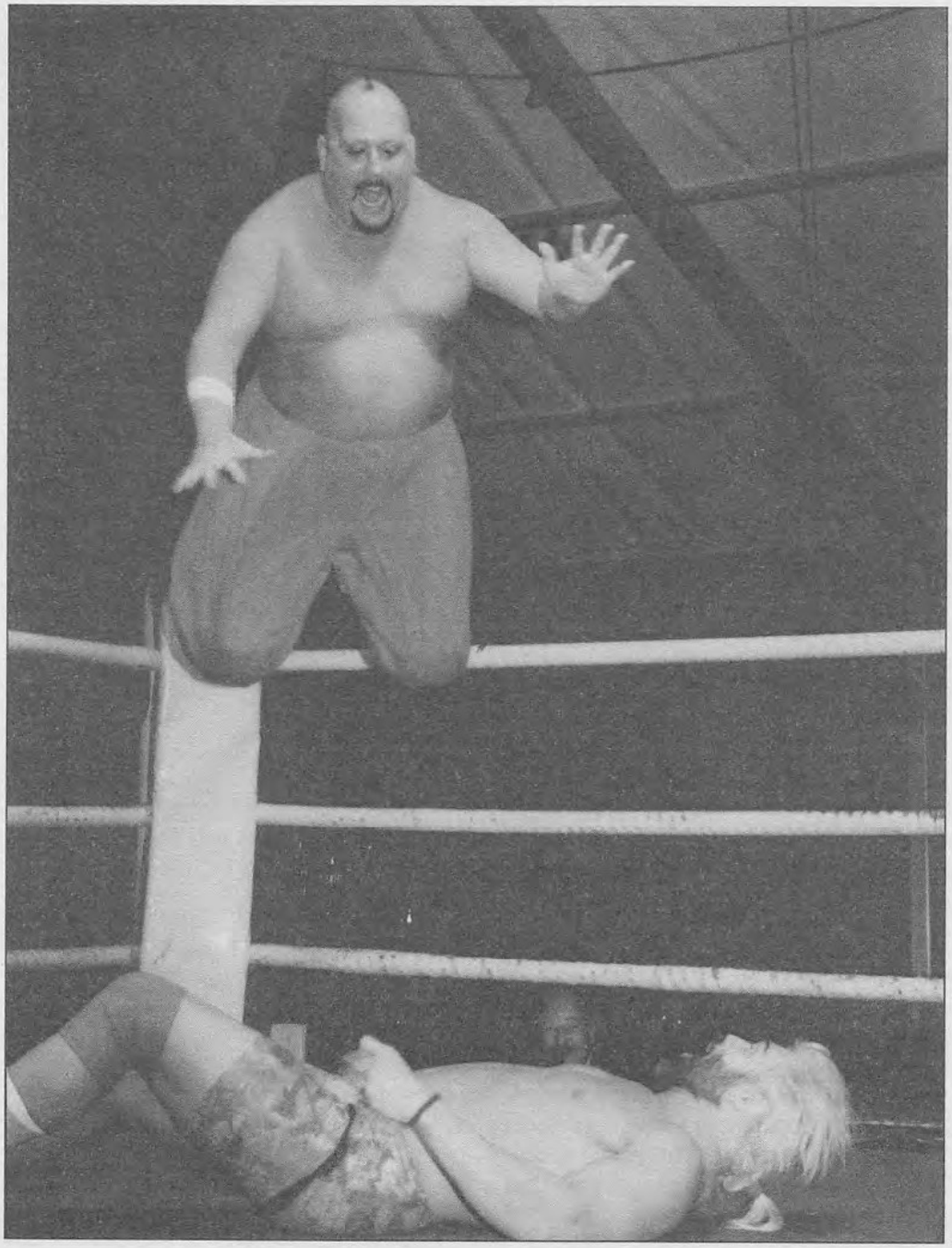
MM: Oh, really. Which group? WINGS?

NW: To be honest, I don't remember. There are approximately a dozen promotions over there. It was either WINGS or NOW. (Laughs) Are you aware of how many promotions there are in Japan? They just keep splintering off into smaller and smaller leagues.

Eventually, every Japanese fan will have their own personal wrestling promotion. It is kind of how Americans feel about talk shows. There are just too many, and it also thins out the talent pool. Sooner or later, it will have to catch up with them at the box office.

MM: Well, promoters can no longer monopolize talent or blackball them from the business. Now if you have talent, everyone wants you. No one can afford to have you blackballed because you'll wind up drawing big money for the rival promotion. The promoter has to make a greater effort to keep his boys happy; otherwise, they'll start looking elsewhere. Look at Horace Boulder, Hulk Hogan's nephew. He just jumped from Japan's FMW group to All-Japan. The talent will rise to the top—now more than ever.

NW: It would be wonderful to see some of this happen in the United



States. I think the perception of professional wrestling has to change within the total consciousness of the media as well as the general public. Wrestling has to gain a greater level of acceptance before this can be achieved. Until we achieve that level, I feel it will continue as a two-promotion system in the United States.

We're coming down to the end of this lengthy conversation. Is there anything you would you like to add in closing?

MM: I am always on the move, but I will keep you and your readers posted on what is happening in my career.

NW: Many thanks, Mauler, and, on behalf of all our ***New Wavers***, I want to wish you continued success in your career.

MM: Thank you, Mike. And to all of your ***New Wavers*** out there, I want you to remember that ***New Wave Wrestling*** is the official update news source for all the Mongolian Mauler's international exploits. So keep reading this magazine, because I'll be coming to your town or city in the very near future. ***NWW***

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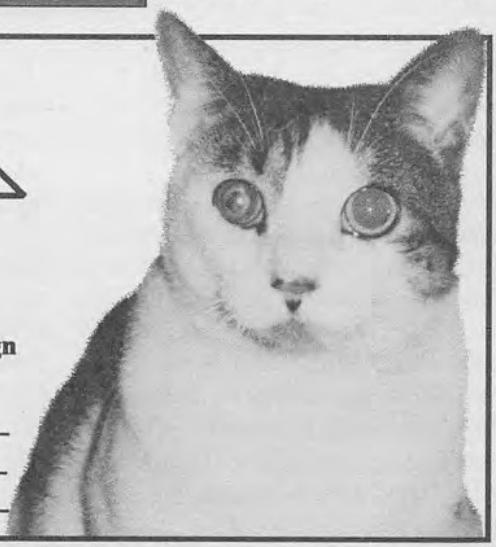

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INTERNATIONAL SLAMS

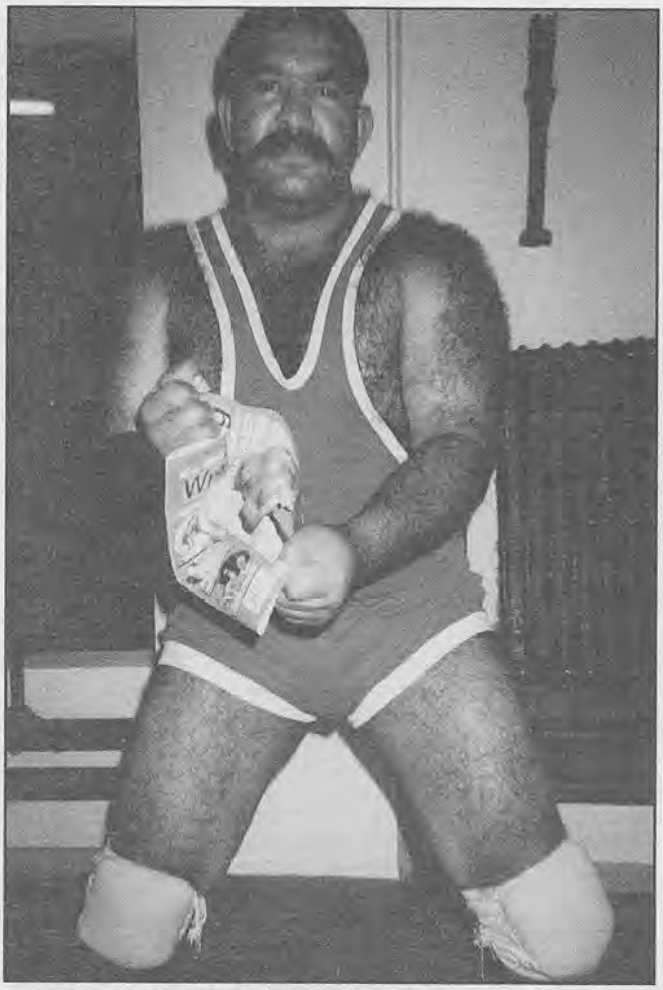
compiled by Michael O'Hara

AUSTRALIA

Δ *AWF:* Promoter/wrestler Don "the Rock" Muraco completed another successful tour of Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne. Top matches included: Max Moon beat Akira Nogami; Road Warrior Hawk pinned Demolition Smash (Barry "Repo Man" Darsow); Big Boss Man pinned Convict Nailz; Dean & Joe Malenko upset the Fantastics; and Con Iakovidis stopped "Bad Boy" Jeff Bradley... Rising stars Ace Fenton and A.J. Freeley were also on the cards... AWF champion Jake "the Snake" Roberts was not booked on this tour.

AUSTRIA & GERMANY

Δ *CWA Promotions:* Promoter Otto Wanz continues to provide an influx of international talent... "Rambo" Luc Porier regained the Catch Wrestling Alliance World title from Legion of Doom member, Hawk (Mike Hegstrand) in Graz, Austria...Dave Taylor & Mile Zrno captured the CWA tag-team straps from "Lethal" Larry Cameron and "Mad Bull" Buster in Austria... Others who have seen action on the CWA circuit in recent months have included: Franz Schumann, Steve Wright, Colonel Brody, Dave Taylor, Giant Haystacks, Dave Finlay, Eddie Gilbert, Eddy Steinblock, and Klaus Kauroff.



Pakistan's Little Prince demonstrates what he plans to do to his opposition in Great Britain. photo: Al Marshall

CANADA

Δ *Canadian Championship Wrestling:* The 1994 season will begin soon. Wrestlers expected to compete throughout this period include: Soaring Eagle, Leo Burke, seven-foot-three, 325-pound Acadian Giant, Rick Patterson, "Big" Stephen Petitpas, Danny Littlewolf, "Butcher" Vachon (not the original), the Cuban Assassin, and Goldie Rogers.

Δ *Universal Independent Wrestling:* This group is running shows in British Columbia and Washington state. The circuit features "Playboy" Buddy Rose, Ed "Moondog" Moretti, the Grappler, Buddy Wayne, Moose Morowski, Ole Oleson, "Diamond" Tim Flowers, and midgets "Little Nasty Boy" Danny and Coconut Willie.

Δ *West Coast Championship Wrestling:* This promotion recognizes no champions at present. "Diamond" Tim Flowers is feuding with Rocky Dellasera in a series of cage matches... Ladies tag-team action has veteran Velvet McIntyre & Brenda Two Eagles battling Stacy Jackson & "Awesome" Annie... Others include: Michelle Starr, Buddy Wayne, Johnny Canuck, "Moose" Morowski, Ole Oleson, Randy Tyler, Mike Edwards, Dobie Gillis, "Vicious" Verne Siebert, and "Luscious" Lance Idol.

GREAT BRITAIN

Δ *All-Star:* Promoter Brian Dixon has top talent and action at all times. Former WCW star P.N. News (Paul Neu) has been main eventing here as the American Avalanche... Tony St. Clair has regained the heavyweight crown for a third time..."Bomber" Pat Roach is feuding with Col. Brody...The Super Flys are the tag-team champions... Other stars on tour have included: The Mongolian Mauler, "Heavy Metal" Patterson, the U.K. Earthquake (Scrubber Daly), the Legend of Doom (Johnny South), and the Sting (Phil Barker).

Δ *Ring Wrestling Stars:* Promoter Max Crabtree continues to orchestrate the top matches of the United Kingdom... Big Daddy and Tony Stuart continue their unbeaten run as tag-team

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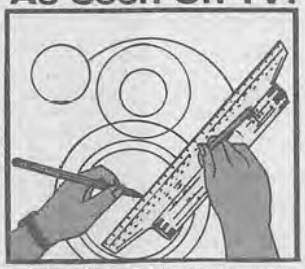

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competitors...Johnny Angel has been engaged in some incredible bouts with Ian MacGregor and the 640-pound, seven-foot-tall Giant Haystacks (Luke McMasters)...Kendo Nagasaki continues his feud with the scientific Marty Jones...Others include: the Undertakers (Gloom and Doom), the Valentine Brothers, Alan Kilby, Spinner McKenzie, and Sheik Mohammad.

Δ ***Pro-Wrestling South:*** Lewis Blain and Clive Cannell have joined forces as a tag team after a lengthy and bitter feud. They have issued challenges to all wrestlers on the circuit... This group features stars from throughout the country, including: "Superstar" Sander, Scot Conway, Tarzan Wilson, Brian "Gold Belt" Maxine, Steve Grey, and U.K. Nasty Boy Finch.

JAPAN

Δ ***All-Japan:*** Mitsuhara Misawa holds the Triple-Crown championship. His top challenger, Terry "Bam Bam" Gordy, has been sidelined by a serious injury, so Steve "Dr. Death" Williams and Kenta Kobashi have taken the top-ranking slots...Akira Taue and Tashiyaki Kawada have been feuding with Ted DiBiase and Stan Hansen over the All-Japan tag team titles...The Sensational, Intelligent Destroyer (Dick Beyer), 63, recently completed his retirement tour and had the opportunity to tag team with old partner/rival, Shohei "Giant" Baba, and his son, Kurt Beyer... The Big Boss Man and Stan Hansen worked a number of tag matches... Recent international stars have included: Pete Roberts, Kendall Windham, Johnny Smith, Johnny Ace, and the Youngbloods.

Δ ***All-Japan Women:*** This promotion is also working with the other female leagues. Aja Kong (AJW) is feuding with Dynamite Kansai (JWP)... Kyoko Inoue (AJW) is battling Shinobu Kandori (LLPW)...Bat Yoshinaga is the WWWA Martial Arts championship... Others include: Akira Hokuto, Sakie Hasegawa, Megumi Kudo, Miki Handa, Harley Saito, and Masami Watanabe.

Δ ***Frontier Martial Arts Wrestling:*** The wildest and bloodiest battles have been taking place under the FMW banner...The Gladiator and Big Titan defeated Sambo Asake and Atsushi Onita in a no rope, barbed-wire street fight.

Δ ***New Japan Pro-Wrestling:*** The Jurassic Powers (Hercules and Scott "Flash" Norton) upset the Hell Raisers (Road Warrior Hawk and Kensuke Sasaki) for the IWGP tag belts...Hulk Hogan and Keiji Muto will be tag teaming against the Hell Raisers by the time you read this...Brutus "the Barber" Beefcake will also be touring with the Hulkster.

Δ ***WING:*** Freddie Krueger (former WWF star of the 1980s Corporal Kirschner) has been feuding with Mexico's Dr. Wagner... Bill Eadie, who received great success in the WWF as Demolition Ax, has reprised his 1970s character, the Masked Superstar.... Dick Murdoch spent most of the summer here... Crush the Terminator, Miguel Perez Junior, and Mitsuhiro Matsunaga are some of the featured stars.

Brutus "the Barber" Beefcake will be seeing more action under the New Japan Wrestling banner. photo: Koichi Yoshizawa

MEXICO

Δ ***AAA:*** Rayo de Jalisco Senior, 63, teamed with his son in a tag match to officially celebrate his retirement from the squared circle...The Blue Panther defeated "Love Machine" Art Barr in a loser shaves his head match.

Δ ***UWA:*** Billy Jack Haynes will be wrestling here as a villain soon... The Canadian Vampire Casanova is the UWA heavyweight champ... Villano IV & V are the tag-team champs... Zuleyma is the Ladies' champion.

NEW ZEALAND

Δ ***AWMAA:*** Veteran Bruno Bekkar is their top star and current heavyweight champion...A.J. Freely, the New Zealand heavyweight champion, continues to draw praise as a star in the making.

PUERTO RICO

Δ ***WWC:*** Carlos Colon, the co-owner of Capitol Sports Promotions, retired in true winning form by pinning Terry Funk, the former NWA World champion, in his farewell match. Colon has been the top attraction in the Caribbean for well over twenty years, and his matches against the likes of Abdullah the Butcher and the Funks have been some of the most brutal ever seen...Others in the area include: Dusty Wolfe, Ricky Santana, and Ray Gonzalez. ***NWW***

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Gold Belt Wrestling: 2 /90 (Hulk vs. Tyson?) - **$7.50**

Official International Wrestling Insider: 12/90 (1st issue - Mr. Perfect, Hulk Hogan, Brutus Beefcake)-**$20.00,** 2/91 (Hulk & Ultimate Warrior -mint) - **$6.00**

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MIKE'S MAILBAG

Send your questions, comments & opinions to:
Michael O'Hara, Publisher
New Wave Wrestling
P.O. Box 9035, Grand Station, Dept. MM
Long Island City, NY 11103–9991

Dear Mike:

I've said it before, and I'll say it again—your magazine is, without a doubt, the best one on the market today! I look forward to each new issue. Unlike the other magazines, ***New Wave Wrestling*** is honest, to the point, and entertaining. You treat your readers with respect.

I'd like to discuss your commentary in issue No. 11. You make a number of good points in your argument for pay-per-views. I must say, though, you are opening the proverbial can of worms with your statement: "It seems that ppv is where WCW and WWF should focus their attention." Why? Who would benefit more by this move—the fans or promoters? Although I agree with your claim that WCW and the WWF can reach more people with ppv's, I really do not believe that this move would be in the best interest of the fans.

First, any fan who has ever been to a "live" card understands just how exciting it can be. There is an electricity in the air that you just don't experience when watching the matches on TV.

Second, I don't believe anyone has proven the exact reason for the decline in attendance at the house shows. The drop in attendance could be for any number of reasons, such as too many ppv's, too much weekly TV coverage (both syndicated and cable), a decline in quality matches, economic reasons, etc. In other words, the ppv's might be a part of the problem and not the solution.

Third, I was curious if viewership for the ppv's is on the increase or decrease? I was under the impression that viewership for ppv's was on the decline as well. If this is the case, it would seem to indicate that interest, in general, is on the decrease. Do we know for sure that the fans who refuse to spend $20.00 for a ticket to a house show will spend $20.00 or $30.00 to see a ppv? Why spend that money when you have access to over 20 hours of "free" TV wrestling per week?

I do not favor additional ppv events. The sad fact is that there is an ever-growing amount of these events. Instead of pushing for more ppv's, I think fans should push for better-quality matches than we have been given over the past few years. Maybe the decline in attendance is an indication of the fans trying to say something to the promotions.

Thanks for the great magazine, and keep up the good work!

Todd A. Bragg
Overbrook, PA

(Mike's Memo: Thanks, Todd, for your insightful comments. I received a great deal of mail from our ***New Wavers*** in regard to my editorial in issue No. 11. Many felt that I sided with the promoters over the fans, but this is not the case—Nor will it ever be! On the flip side of that coin, I would also like to state that I do not wish to develop an anti-promoter stance in this mat mag either!

We need the promoters, just as we need the fans, and, most certainly, the wrestlers themselves. I would like ***New Wave Wrestling*** to be an incubator for ideas that can be useful to the promoters. In turn, they can do a better job of meeting the needs of the fans. I also want ***NWW*** to be a place where the fans can directly bring their voices to the promoters. In doing so, they can tell the wrestling powers-that-be what they like or dislike about the grappling game's current direction.

You're 100% correct, Todd—nothing can ever take the place of attending a live card. If any of our ***New Wavers*** haven't been to an arena show, you owe it to yourself to attend the next wrestling event in your town.

The pay-per-views may very well be the problem, but, let's face it, no promoter will ever relinquish his opportunity for multimillion-dollar profits from a one-night event. Professional wrestling is a totally profit-motivated business. If I suggested that promoters forego millions in profits for the good of the mat sport, they'd probably throw a butterfly net over me. We need alternative solutions that will please fans and promoters alike.

The decline in arena attendance can be attributed to ALL of the factors in your letter.

The success or failure of ppv viewership is tricky to gauge. TV ratings are measured in percentages. Each percentage point {for free TV} is equivalent to approximately one million homes. In the U.S., not every home is "hooked up" for ppv, so each point equals less.

More and more homes can subscribe to the ppv's, so that continuously changes the final sales percentage. It's hard to accurately measure increases or decreases. For example—If I had printed 10 copies of ***New Wave Wrestling*** No. 1, and I sold five copies, then I had a 50% sale. If I increased my print job to 100 copies with issue No. 2, and I sold 40 copies, I would have a 40% sale. Despite the fact that I sold eight times the amount of my first issue, my percentage of sale dropped by 10%. It's pretty wacky stuff. You can't take the ratings numbers at face value.

I don't think we need more ppv's. Half of the ppv shows have little, if any, special appeal. It's just another wrestling TV show to most of us.)

Dear Mike:

You've put out such a terrific magazine for the fans. ***New Wave Wrestling*** is a great read, especially the interviews.

Billie Jessee is to be complimented for the time and effort she puts into her interviews. They are always interesting, informative, and diverse.

Thanks for the in-depth article on Bob Backlund in issue No. 9. I'm fed up with the lack of respect given to him in the various publications. People claim they want real talent in the WWF, not a sideshow. They then proceed to make fun of him. His principles alone merit respect, such as his quitting the WWF years ago, rather than wrestle as a villain with dyed, black hair.

Greg Miller
Hagersville, Ontario, Canada

PINFORMATION

Send your questions to:
Michael O'Hara, Publisher
New Wave Wrestling
P.O. Box 9035, Grand Station, Dept. Pinfo
Long Island City, NY 11103-9991

Dear Mike:

First, I'd like to say how great ***New Wave Wrestling*** is! My questions are: Do promoters actually keep win/loss records of the wrestlers? If so, why don't they ever mention them on TV? What ever happened to the TV show, *Learning the Ropes*?

Josh Bingham
Piqua, Ohio

Mike's memo: Unfortunately, Josh, there are no real win/loss records of the various matches. Promoters never gave it much thought, I suppose. The gang at *New Wave HQ* are tirelessly compiling match results and data in order to preserve some semblance of wrestling history. It hasn't been easy, but we're moving ahead by a fraction of an inch each day. As for *Learning the Ropes*, I suspect that low ratings caused it's final pinfall.

Dear Michael:

Do you know of anywhere in England that provides training in the American style of professional wrestling? I've checked with everyone, but no one has been able to supply any advice.

I would also like to know if the Undertaker is married, and if there is an address where I can write him. I think he's brilliant!

Miss Diane Russell
Kent, England

Mike's memo: The best advice I can provide for you is to approach one of your local promoters. American wrestlers are always on tour in the U.K. these days, so they might be a helpful source of information as well. The Undertaker—yes, he's married. As for an address to write to ol' Undie, see *Mike's Mailbag* in *NWW #11.*

Dear Mike:

Is the *WWF Superstars of Wrestling* show "refilmed" with Vince McMahon standing in front of a giant screen? Are the Saturday afternoon programs actually taped after the big pay-per-view events, or are they filmed way in advance?

Are Terry Gene Bollea and Brutus Beefcake brothers? What are the real names of Repo Man, Virgil, Shawn Michaels, Sgt. Slaughter, and Sid Justice?

Cory You
Auburn, CA

Mike's Memo: Depending upon the design of the arena in which the WWF is taping its televised programs, sometimes you'll see Vince and company standing in front of an "added" crowd, other times, it's the real thing. Most TV tapings are created for three weeks at a time, so again, sometimes the TV show will broadcast a few days after the pay-per-view, and in some instances, the show has been taped up to three weeks prior to the ppv.

Terry Gene (Hulk Hogan to the uninitiated) and Brutus Beefcake (Ed Leslie) are not brothers, but they are longtime friends. They wrestled as a brother tag team in the late 1970s (see last issue's story on the Mega-Maniacs for ALL the details).

Real names—Barry Darsow, Michael Jones, Michael Hickenbottom, Robert Remus, and Sid Eudy, respectively.

Dear Mike:

Are Vinnie Vegas and "Oz" the same wrestler? Can you do an interview or article on the oldest living ring announcer, Joe McHugh?

Edward Shively III
Bethlehem, PA

The late, great Joe McHugh–ring announcer without equal. photo: Michael O'Hara

Mike's memo: Not only are Vinnie Vegas and "Oz" the same wrestler but he's also Shawn Michaels' bodyguard Diesel!

Sadly, 88-year-old Joe McHugh passed away earlier this year. Joe was, at one time, the friendly voice on the WWF TV tapings held in Allentown, PA in the 1970s and early 1980s. He had announced wrestling and boxing for over fifty years, and by his own estimation, he had introduced more than 10,000 matches. Joe had a tremendous sense of humor (he was once a stand-up comic during the vaudeville era), and he was loved by everyone who had the good fortune of knowing him.

Dear Mike:

New Wave Wrestling is one of the best wrestling magazines I have ever seen. I'm just sorry I never picked it up sooner.

Have I been the only one to notice that Shawn Michaels looks an awful lot like rock singer Bret Michaels? Are they related?

Personally, I think you should devote an entire issue to the life and times of Ric Flair...WOOOO!

Silvia DiCarlo
LaSalle, Quebec, Canada

Mike's memo: Geez—I know I'm gettin' old—Who's Bret Michaels?

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SANTO IN THE WAX MUSEUM (1963) – A scientist is turning people into wax figures.

SANTO'S SECRET CARIBBEAN MISSION (1968) – Santo vs. drug dealers. (IN SPANISH - NO SUBTLS.)

SANTO VS. THE STRANGLER (1964) – The Strangler is on a murder spree! (IN SPANISH - NO SUBTLS.)

SANTO VS. BLUE DEMON IN ATLANTICA (1968) – Mexico's two ring greats team together to stop an undersea monarch! (IN SPANISH)

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SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 2 – Samoans, One Man Gang & Skandor Akbar attack Ernie Ladd; Iron Sheik vs. King Kobra; North American Title – Ted DiBiase vs. Paul Orndorff; Samoans vs. Rick Ferrara & Bill Ash; Louisiana Title – JYD vs. Bob Roop (Orton & Orndorff in Roop's corner).

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 3 – Jimmy Garvin (with Precious) vs. Billy Brooks; Steve Regal & Jim Garvin attack Wahoo McDaniel; Louisiana Title – JYD vs. The Grappler; Mississippi Title – Bob Orton (with Samoans & Orndorff in his corner) vs. Mike George (with Dusty Rhodes & JYD in his corner); Dusty Rhodes brawls with Paul Orndorff & Bob Orton; "Easy" Ed Wiskowski & Bob Orton vs. Ted DiBiase & Mr. Olympia; JYD vs. Masked Terry Orndorff (Shane Douglas), with Paul Orndorff & Bob Orton in Terry's corner.

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 4 – Manny Fernandez, David & Kerry von Erich, Baron Krupp & more!

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 5 – Dick the Bruiser, Ernie Ladd, Baron von Raschke, Manny Fernandez, Crusher, Little Bruiser & others! (color).

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 6 – Andre the Giant, the Sheik, Chief Jay Strongbow, "Bulldog" Don Kent, Pampero Firpo, "Bruiser" Brody, Scott Casey, Kely Kiniski, and more!

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 7 –Terry Boulder (Hulk Hogan), Andre the Giant, & "Cowboy" Bob Ellis.

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 8 –Top Southwestern action.

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 9 –The Sheik, Tom Jones, Bobo Brazil, Wahoo McDaniel, and others!

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 10 – The Sheik, Tiger Jeet Singh, Terry Boulder (Hulk Hogan), Gino Hernandez, and more! (color).

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 11 – Terry Taylor vs. Sabu; Wahoo McDaniel, Marty Jannetty & Tommy Rogers vs. The Grapplers & Ted Oates (color).

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 12 – Highlights of Gorgeous George, Jesse James, Fritz von Erich, Whipper Watson, Buddy Rogers, Miller Brothers, Kangaroos, Lizowski Brothers, Yukon Eric, and Bobo Brazil (color).

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 13 – Butch Reed vs. Kamala (color).

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 14 – Jim Duggan vs. Ted DiDiase in a street fight.

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 15 – "Nature Boy" Ric Flair vs. Terry Taylor (color).

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 16 – "Nature Boy" Ric Flair vs. Wahoo McDaniel.

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 17 – Ted DiBiase & Steve Williams vs. Hector & Chavo Guerrero in a steel cage match (color).

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 18 – Jim Comette & The Midnight Express vs. The Fantastics & "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan (color).

ALL-STAR WRESTLING Vol. 1 Bob Orton vs. Rick McCord; Assassins vs. Vinnie Valentino & Steve Muslin; Bob Orton & Dick Slater vs. Scott McGhee & Steve Muslin; The Assassins vs. Rick McCord & Keith Larsen; Bob Orton & Dick Slater vs. Terry Gibbs & John Bonello (color).

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Vol. 49: Great Bolo vs. Danny McShane (2/3 falls) + McShane interviewed.

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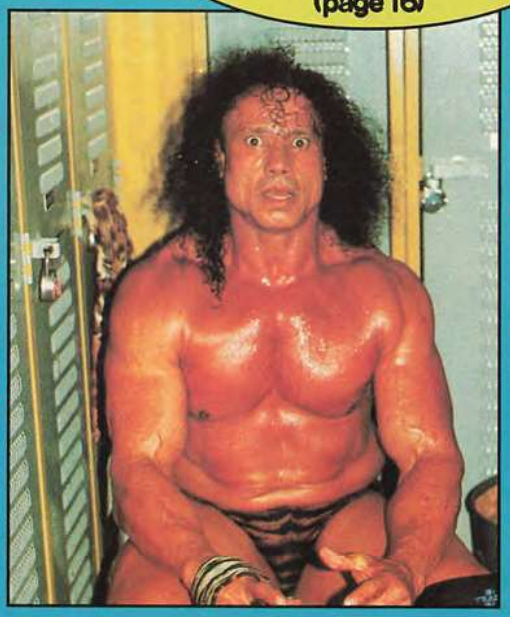

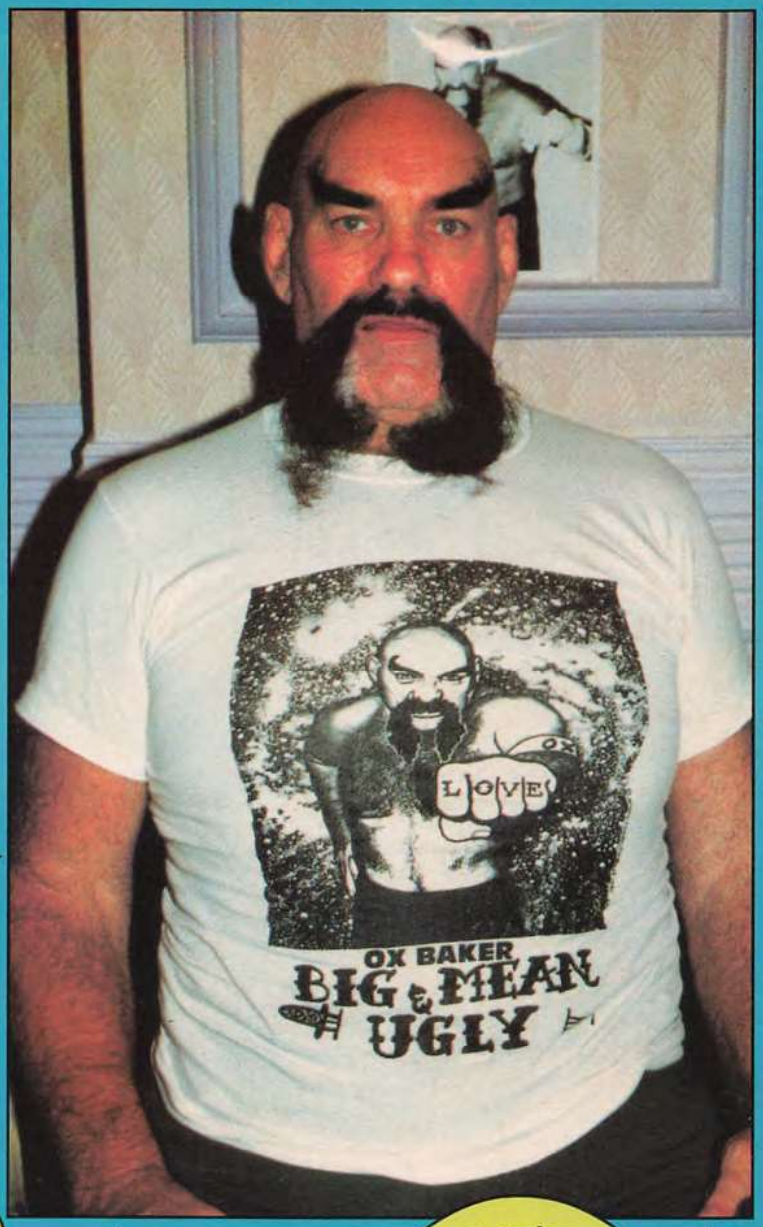

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